Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-217
Friday
12 November 1993

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FBIS-NES-93-217 *12 November 1993*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat Informed of Progress of Subcommittee Meetings

NC1011124193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador Sa'id Kamal reported today that a telephone call has been made to President Yasir 'Arafat, who is in Brussels, to inform him of the progress made by the [Palestinian-Israeli] subcommittee that met in Cairo on 8 and 9 November.

Kamal told MENA that the results achieved by this subcommittee must be viewed in the context of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's recent trip to Israel and President Husni Mubarak's meeting with Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] in Cairo. He explained that these meetings helped overcome the obstacles that had prevented any progress.

Kamal added that the Gaza-Jericho Committee will meet in Taba sometime next week but no specific date has been set for the meeting, which will be preceded by a smaller meeting during which an agenda will be developed.

Sa'id Kamal also told Israeli radio today that the statement issued after the subcommittee's meeting yesterday demonstrated the earnest spirit in which issues are being discussed.

Sha'th Notes 'Remarkable Progress' in Talks

NC1011143093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Following two days of Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo, Israel today agreed to reduce its forces outside the Israeli settlements in Gaza. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinians delegation to the talks, said remarkable progress has been made. He said he expects the talks to achieve the anticipated results by December. But he noted some obstacles still need to be removed. Sha'th stressed that the Palestinian-Israeli talks will return to their original venue, Taba, on Monday and Tuesday.

Sources close to the meetings say the Israelis presented the Palestinians with amended maps of Israel's security plan. These provide for keeping the Israeli forces around the settlements and withdrawing them from roads that will be handed over to the Palestinians.

Details of Israel-PLO Cairo Talks Reported

TA1011125393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Nov 93 p 2

[Report by On Levi from Cairo]

[Text] Palestinian delegates expressed dissatisfaction with the bridging proposals presented by Israel at the Cairo talks, which ended yesterday afternoon. Israel offered to reduce the number of outposts along the main traffic axes in the Gaza Strip from 30 to only nine. Israel also offered to hold detailed discussions on any limitations that would be imposed on construction and traffic near the fences surrounding the Jewish settlements in the area. These fences will also separate the Gaza Strip from Israeli territory.

Although there was no significant breakthrough in the talks, both sides agreed to continue the talks, which will apparently be resumed next Tuesday in Taba.

Yesterday, the Israeli delegation expressed its unequivocal opposition to the Palestinian proposal to station a multinational police force in the Gaza Strip that would be responsible for the security of Jewish settlers traveling along the Gaza Strip thoroughfares. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat nevertheless reiterated yesterday that a multinational force separating between the Palestinians, the settlers, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], troops that will remain in the Qatif Bloc is the only realistic solution to the differences between both sides on this issue.

Sources in the Palestinian delegation in Cairo said yesterday that although Israel had indeed presented a more flexible position regarding its concept of security during the autonomy period, after last week's talks in Taba broke off over this issue, this still did not constitute a real breakthrough and there are still large gaps between the parties.

In the course of the Cairo meetings, the Israeli delegation sought to compromise by offering to station only nine outposts along the main traffic axes in the Gaza Strip. Israel also let the Palestinians understand that it would agree to establish outposts that would be of a civilian rather than a military nature and would man them with border policemen instead of IDF troops. The Israeli delegation again clarified the importance of these outposts for the safe traffic of Israelis on the roads and for bolstering the settlers' morale.

Yesterday Israel also proposed a compromise on the issue of land reserves that will remain under Israeli control after the Israeli forces withdraw from Gaza. According to the Israeli proposal, detailed discussions on the IDF redeployment in the Gaza Strip, accompanied by maps, will start at the next round of talks within the framework of the subcommittee on security affairs.

Israel will be prepared to revoke its original demand that the Palestinians be prohibited from approaching within 1 km of the fences that will surround the area of the settlements and separate between the Gaza Strip and the Green Line. Israel will agree to permit Palestinians into some of these areas. Construction will also be permitted in parts of these areas to be defined at the Taba talks. Israel also agrees that there will be no limitations on the cultivation of agricultural land right up to the border fences.

Palestinian sources reported that even after some moderation of its positions, Israel is still demanding to hold on to an area of approximately 140 square km of the Gaza Strip's 370 square km.

After two days of talks, Palestinian sources in Cairo yesterday expressed serious concern that the negotiations over the implementation of the autonomy arrangements will not be completed before 13 December, the target date stipulated in the Oslo agreement. The sources asserted that there was no breakthrough in the two days of discussions and that with only five weeks remaining until the target date, the talks should be resumed already next week. The prevailing assessment yesterday was that the Taba talks, in the familiar format of working groups, will resume next Tuesday.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction yesterday over the fact that the Cairo talks were conducted under a veil of secrecy and with almost no media coverage. At the end of yesterday's talks, at approximately 1500, both delegations published a joint communique consisting of two sentences which said: "The Cairo talks have ended. Both parties thank the Egyptian Government for sponsoring the event."

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 10 November reports that "the members of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Palestinians in Cairo met this morning with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and reported progress in the discussions." The report adds that "the Israeli delegation's report indicates that progress was made on the interpretation of the clause on the IDF withdrawal contained in the document of principles" and that "the gaps between the two parties was narrowed." The team's report to the prime minister also indicates "a possible breakthrough that could pave the way for the continuation of the negotiations and perhaps for their successful conclusion in approximately one month, in accordance with the target date stipulated by the document of principles." The radio adds that "Prime Minister Rabin gave the delegation instructions in anticipation of the resumption of the negotiations with the PLO next week."]

Israeli Knesset Body Arrives for Peace Symposium

NC1211075393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2320 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—An Israeli Knesset delegation arrived in Cairo this evening. The delegation includes Knesset Members Eli Dayan, head of the Labor Party parliamentary bloc; Ya'el Dayan; Yosi Katz; and 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, leader of the Arab Democratic Party in the Knesset. It also includes some prominent political leaders and heads of institutions working for peace in Israel.

In an arrival statement, Darawshah said that the delegation will attend a political symposium for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue that will begin Friday [12 November] morning and continue for three days. It is designed to work out the differences and overcome the difficulties in the peace process. He said that the symposium is being held under the slogan, "Two States in One Holy Land." The slogan signifies an independent Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel. He noted that the symposium is being held with the initiative and financial assistance of an American institute for peace in the Middle East headed by John Witmack [name as received]. A group of Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans are participating in the symposium. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Security Council Urged To Reconsider Libya Sanctions

NC1011151193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has called on the Security Council to reconsider its position on tightening sanctions against Libya because such tightening will have serious consequences. Postponing such a measure could help find a peaceful solution to the crisis, he said.

In a joint news conference today with Mohamed Amamu, secretary general of the Arab Maghreb Union, 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab League supports Libya's 'flexibility' in implementing the Security Council resolutions. He said Libya has emphasized that it seeks a fair trail for those suspected of bombing an American airliner over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988.

On another topic, 'Abd-al-Majid stressed the need for Iraq to observe all UN resolutions. He pointed out that the events of August 1990 [Iraq's invasion of Kuwait] violated the Arab League Charter and that the Gulf crisis constitutes the essence of the Arab stalemate.

He said he does not agree with Iraq's claim that the Gulf crisis was a result of earlier developments.

On Arab reconciliation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized the importance of frankness before reconciliation. He said his initiative on reconciliation remains on the table for the Arabs and non-Arabs to discuss. He noted that many Arab leaders have responded favorably.

We don't deny reconciliation still faces difficulties, but there is a firm desire to overcome them and boost Arab solidarity, he said. He maintained that states that are isolated from others have no place in the changing world. [passage omitted]

Turkish Ambassador Disputes Arab League Assessment

TA1211114493 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0920 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 11 (AA)—Turkey on Thursday [11 November] asked for information concerning anti-Turkey declarations made by an official of the Arab League.

Turkish Ambassador in Cairo Metin Mekik met with Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid

and asked for detailed information concerning a statement made by the Syrian-origin secretariat's assistant for political affairs, Ambassador 'Adnan 'Umran.

'Umran had said in a statement last week that "Turkey constitutes a threat to all Arab countries," adding that "Ankara should review its policy."

Mekik told AA that during his meeting with the secretary general, he told the latter that this did not reflect reality, adding if such a statement has been made it should at once be corrected with wide press coverage.

He said that he has also communicated the secretary general with a number of issues with special reference to Turkey's policy and problems with its neighbouring countries.

Following the meeting a statement was made by the Arab League Secretariat in which Turkey-Arab countries relations were evaluated in the light of latest developments.

The statement said that during the meeting, the importance of the continuation of the dialogue process was stressed, as well as cooperation, good neighbourhood ties and the wish to develop bilateral ties between Turkey and Arab nations.

"The advantage for both Turkey and the Arab nations lies in a friendly solution to be found for any problems that arise from the sharing of the waters of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, within international laws," the statement said.

Mekik for his part told AA that the water issues was not discussed.

Palestinian Affairs

Tunis Paper Names Future Palestinian Officials

NC1111221693 Paris AFP in English 2048 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, Nov 11 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat was expected here late Thursday [11 November] for talks on setting up the leadership for Palestinian autonomy and to review a spy scandal, officials at the organization's headquarters said.

He was to chair a meeting Friday of the mainstream Fatah faction's Revolutionary Council, after sessions of the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO's Executive Committee, they said.

'Arafat left Lisbon on Thursday, cutting short an official visit to Portugal to attend meetings in Tunis.

Fatah, the PLO's backbone, must present a platform of political action on implementing Palestinian autonomy, starting in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, Central Committee member Muhammad Ghunaym told AFP.

He said the Revolutionary Council would review the make-up of the political and economic bodies set to manage the autonomy deal in the occupied territories, notably the national Palestinian authority.

That body, to be presided by 'Arafat, is also at the center of the Executive Committee's meeting.

The Fatah leaders will also review the autonomy agreement signed in September and the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations aimed at implementing the accord.

Ghunaym said the Revolutionary Council would review the arrest of a senior Palestinian official charged with spying for Israel, 'Adnan Hasan Yasin, the number two at the PLO mission in Tunis, was arrested last month.

A Tunisian daily, ASSABAH, citing a Palestinian source, on Thursday listed 19 of the autonomy team members who it said were to manage the interim self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho under 'Arafat.

Half are from the Israeli-occupied territories and the other half from the Palestinian diaspora, members of the PLO's Executive Committee as well as Fatah's Central Committee.

The following is the list published in the newspaper:

Occupied territories representatives:

1. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegations to the peace talks.
2. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to bilateral talks with Israel.
3. Ilyas Furayj, mayor of Bethlehem.
4. Akram Sabri, imam of Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque.
5. Mahir al-Masri, Nablus businessman.
6. Bashir Barghuti, secretary general of the Palestinian People's Party (PPP, ex-communist).
7. Furayh Abu-Middayn, leader of the Gaza Lawyers Union.
8. Hanna Nasir, president of Bir Zayt University.
9. Zakariya al-Agha, peace talks delegate and Fatah leader in Gaza.
10. Nabil Ja'bari, dean of Hebron University.

Diaspora representatives:

1. Mahmud 'Abbas, Executive Committee member and Fatah representative.
2. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Executive Committee member, representing the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine's 'Abd-Rabbuh branch.
3. Yasir 'Amru, independent Executive Committee member.
4. Jamal Surani, independent Executive Committee member.
5. Zuhdi Nashashibi, independent Executive Committee member.
6. Samir Ghawshah, Executive Committee member representing the PPP.
7. Sulayman Najjab, Executive Committee member representing the PPP.

The Tunisian daily said two Fatah Central Committee members, Nabil Sha'th and Ahmad Kuriyah, would be added to the list.

'Abbas' 'Seclusion' Due To Differences With 'Arafat

PM1011170993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qalyubi report: " 'Arafat Complains About Syria; Mahmud 'Abbas Secludes Himself"]

[Text] Tunis, Cairo, Brussels, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—Palestinian sources have noted the absence, or rather seclusion, of Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), known as the architect of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. They say that this seclusion coincides with a process currently being conducted to mix the cards at the Palestinian level among the bodies involved in bilateral negotiations and those involved in the multilateral negotiations, of which Hani al-Hasan has been appointed chairman even though he is opposed to the bilateral agreement.

The sources point to the existence of a new Palestinian plan to run the Gaza-Jericho Committee directly by decisions from President 'Arafat who, in another development, has complained to the EC about Syria "because it is supporting the extremists and fanatics opposed to the peace agreement." He said in a press conference in Brussels that he expects Jordan and Israel to sign a "friendly agreement" in a few days. 'Arafat was speaking in English. He used the phrase "friendly agreement" [published in English] without giving any details.

At the same level Cairo is preparing to receive Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who is going to bring with him Damascus' reply to the proposals contained in Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's message to President Hafiz al-Asad. The message was delivered to the Syrian president by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's envoy. On what is described as Abu-Mazin's "seclusion," well-informed Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that new thinking and a different kind of diplomacy have begun to chart their way and make their mark on the negotiating process. It has been noted that Abu-Mazin is staying away from these moves, when he should have held a high-level meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, headed by him from the Palestinian side and Shim'on Peres from the Israeli side, in this connection. Instead, the Palestinian president has exerted his influence through various channels of his own to resolve the ongoing crisis in the meetings of the Gaza-Jericho Committee. The sources pointed out that Abu-Mazin is still performing the normal role that he is supposed to play in pushing forward the negotiations. Arab diplomatic sources have described his absence as a form of "seclusion" which has its logical reasons.

In these circles' view, Abu-Mazin signed the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles agreement and is aspiring to impose and accentuate his method in the peace process and to run the whole process in accordance with his views. These he revealed in his speech at the recent Central Council meeting in Tunis, where he cited the need to pursue the logic of a state instead of the logic of a revolution. According to the same sources, circles close to Abu-Mazin say that the disagreement between Abu-Mazin's working method and President 'Arafat's working method goes back to the time of the preparations for the historic Washington trip, when Abu-Mazin objected to the idea of some figures' accompanying 'Arafat on his trip to Washington. These figures include Suha 'Arafat and Bassam Abu-Sharif, his political adviser. 'Arafat reluctantly accepted these objections, especially after Abu-Mazin threatened not to go to Washington. [PLO Political Department Head] Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf) had already announced that he was boycotting what was happening at the time.

The sources also pointed out that the factors which have led to Abu-Mazin's "seclusion" include the formation of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Construction. Abu-Mazin had wanted this council to be formed away from political calculations and domination and to include businessmen and economists capable of tackling the requirements of the stage carefully, especially after the reports that Bassam Abu-Sharif is currently meeting—and has a green light to do so—with the Israeli businessman Nemrudi to set up investment projects in the occupied territories.

Portuguese TV Interviews 'Arafat on Peace Process

LD1111235393 Lisbon RTP Internacional Television in Portuguese 1732 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified correspondent in Lisbon on 10 November—interview conducted in English with Portuguese subtitles, processed from English; recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] During the last days there were riots in the occupied territories and a new mayor has been elected to Jerusalem who opposes the Washington agreement. How serious are these events?

['Arafat] First of all, the election of the municipality in Jerusalem is not any... is not any signal. Because according to my information, 36 percent of the Israelis only had participated in the election. Even many of the... many of the MAPAM [United Workers Party] and Labor Party and others had not participated in this election. Besides, all the Palestinians had not participated in this election. So it means nothing, nothing, nothing at all.

[Correspondent] And what about the riots? There have been confrontations nowadays.

['Arafat] [sighs] As you know, the settlers... [pauses] It is some violence; it's from the settlers against our people, against our establishments. But this has been controlled. We were expecting—we have to expect—after this historical very important agreement, that the opposition in the two sides will try to move here or there.

[Correspondent] Jordan and Israel signed a peace agreement today. [as heard] Also today the secretary general of the Islamic Action Front in Amman vowed to boycott all normalization of relations with Israel. They are two opposite attitudes. Which one interests you most?

['Arafat] The first one. Because we were expecting it. And you know that the Jordanians had signed officially and openly in a ceremony after—one week after—our signing in the White House, Prince Hasan and Peres in the White House, in the presence of His Excellency President Clinton. So this is the most important thing.

[Correspondent] As the PLO president for 24 years you have overcome numerous occasions of danger, both physical and political, and so far you are a winner, Mr. 'Arafat. But now you have to implement an agreement that was voted by a minority [as heard] of your Executive Committee.

['Arafat] This is democracy. This is the part of democracy. And we have opposition, and we are respecting our opposition according to our institutions. The majority has to respect the point of view of the minority, and the minority has to follow up the decision of the majority. Are you against it? [laughs] You have here the same in Portugal.

[Correspondent] What ways of conciliation or even repression towards those who will try to boycott your project and your agreement?

['Arafat] The most important thing is the floods of the masses. And definitely you have the opportunity to follow up how the floods of the masses were supporting the peace agreement. What I am looking for is the floods of the masses. And the floods of the masses have supported the agreement. This is very important. And in the same time we will continue open dialogue and discussion with the opposition. As an example, I open contact with the leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] who is in prison, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

[Correspondent] What do you mean by opening a contact?

['Arafat] I have, it is a part of my duty to open the contacts and dialogues with all the opposition, including Shaykh Ahmad Yasin who is in prison. I sent him a message about the agreement, and he gave this very important declaration in which he mentioned that they will participate in the next election.

[Correspondent] This is a new, a brand new event?

['Arafat] Yes, not new, about some days ago.

[Correspondent] Mr. 'Arafat, on the 8 September 1993, in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, the former member of the PLO's Executive Committee Mr. Shafiq al-Hut said, and I quote: We are entering a period of chaos and fragmentation because Yasir 'Arafat is going to leave the PLO deserted and destroyed. Do you care to comment?

['Arafat] He has to, first of all, it is his opinion. I... I respect, as I told you, I respect another's opinion if it is against me. As Voltaire had mentioned, I may disagree with your opinion, your points of view, but I will fight for your right to express your point of view. This is what Voltaire had mentioned and, with the Arabs, Caliph Omar had mentioned God bless the person who will criticize me. Everybody knows that the PLO is more stronger now than in the past.

[Correspondent] Will there be a parliamentary democracy in Jericho and Gaza?

['Arafat] I am proud that we have succeeded to implement democracy in the jungle of guns, and you know that we are proud of our democracy in the Middle East, and we will follow up in this line because we are looking to establish a modern state, a democratic state, a multiparty state.

[Correspondent] Will there be three independent powers, like in Portugal, for instance?

['Arafat] Definitely. The... the parliament, the head of... the head of the... the head of the state, the government, and the other establishments.

[Correspondent] Are you prepared to share power if the elections of '94 will say so?

['Arafat] Definitely. Why not? I am sharing power. If they will elect me I will participate.

[Correspondent] And if not?

['Arafat] I will return back to work as a civil engineer. I like my profession.

[Correspondent] Two days ago in Brussels, the Portuguese minister of foreign affairs clearly stated that his priorities in cooperation goes towards the Portuguese-speaking African countries and that Portugal has a small budget. Still, Mr. President, what do you expect on economic terms from your visit to this country?

['Arafat] Actually, we are expecting a lot from our friends here in Portugal, not only in the political sphere. No, we are looking for moral support, for political support, and definitely, beside that, there will be the economical support. And I am sure that I will achieve all these supports, and I know at the same time the situation of my friends here in Portugal—I don't want to press or to make any troubles for them.

[Correspondent] In '77, when Portugal started diplomatic relations with Israel, the PLO reacted with anger. But in '79 Portugal was the first European country to receive you as a head of state, and Mario Soares paid you a visit in Beirut in a very difficult moment. What are your feelings and attitude towards Portugal?

[Arafat] Look, I can't forget this courageous stance—step—which has been done by his excellency the president when he came in under these very serious circumstances, under shelling and bombing, to visit me in Beirut. He is a man of principles. My people are admiring him, and me too. And you are lucky to have this courageous man, this man of principle, as the head of the state of this friendly country. And he is not only—from our point of view—the head of the state of Portugal, he is one of the famous international symbols.

[Correspondent] The Oslo negotiations and Washington agreements put an end to the dreams of a greater Israel, but also to a greater Palestine. But both you and the Jews do not accept a divided capital, Jerusalem. Will Jerusalem be the united capital of a confederation?

[Arafat] First of all you have to remember that it is not the first time we were working for peace. As an example, our Palestinian National Council had voted for the sake of two-states solution, which I had declared by their name in front of the General Assembly, which had been held in Geneva. And if you remember before that, as I told you, in '74 we said we that we are ready to establish our Palestinian national authority in any land from which Israel withdraw. After that we had accepted the 10 points of President Mubarak and the five points of Mr. Baker, and recently the President Bush initiative, and before that the initiative which had been declared by President Mitterrand and President Gorbachev, if you remember. So we are looking to achieve, to achieve something concrete concerning the peace. Because peace is more precious than anything else, and we have decided for the two-states solutions.

[Correspondent] Meaning that Jerusalem could be the capital of a confederation?

[Arafat] As an example. If there is a will, there is a way. And you have to remember that MAPAM and Meretz [Power, coalition of Citizens Rights Movement, Shinui, and MAPAM parties] had declared many times that they accept Jerusalem as the capital for the two states. Brussels, as an example, is not one capital; it is three capitals. But, if there is a way... if there is a will... if there is a will, there is a way, I am sure, we will find. Because you have to understand that Jerusalem is a part of the Terra Santa [Holy Land] for the Christians and for the Muslims, and the Israelis has to understand that.

[Correspondent] How do you see the Vatican role in this question?

[Arafat] We... not to forget that we have... we had permanent contact with his holiness the pope. And you remember that I am the first Palestinian who were there, and I told him: I'm not the first Palestinian, I'm the second Palestinian who were, who came in Vatican. The first one was Saint Peter.

[Correspondent] But nothing came out of your talks with his holiness the pope. Could we know...

[Arafat, interrupting] No, we have...

[Correspondent continues] ...more about it?

[Arafat] We have a permanent contact with his holiness and with the Vatican. And through Palestinian side and the Vatican side in continuous contacts, through the dialogue between his holiness and King Hassan of Morocco, the head of the Committee of Jerusalem and the Islamic conference—we are members in this committee—and also in many branches we have the same contacts.

[Correspondent] Finally, the same man who made war is now in the position to build the new state. What are the profound changes that you will seek for the Palestinian society of the 21st century?

[Arafat] First of all, I don't make war, I was resisting occupation. Very important to me. And, as you know, the Europeans were resisting the Nazist occupation; Washington, George Washington, was resisting the British occupation; I was resisting the Israeli occupation. But at the end, in the same time, I was looking to achieve peace.

Look, when I met President Clinton I told him after signing the agreements—I had a short bilateral tete-a-tete talk—I told him, we are in need of your help and all the helps of our friends and brothers everywhere. Because we can have either another Somalia in this area—and you all know that our people had suffered a lot from the occupation, all our infrastructure had been completely destroyed—or another Singapore in the Middle East. You know we have the capability as the Palestinian people to build a modern and a strong state. Especially you know that we had participated in establishing many Arab states. And we have the highest percent of education in the Middle East. We have by-passed the Israelis, according to (Gaffitz)—it is an Israeli institution—report last year in which they mentioned that among every 1,000 Israeli students there are 14 postgraduates, and among every 1,000 Palestinian students there are 18 postgraduates. We are advancing them to the [word indistinct] of 18 to 14. We are proud of this. From our suffering, from our tragedy, we have succeeded to make this very strong revolution, educational revolution.

[Correspondent] But what changes do you think will be necessary to enter the new state you are going to have to build on the 21st century?

[Arafat] As I told you, first of all, free market, education—the stress being on education, on democracy, on the human rights.

'Arafat on Trade Opportunities for Belgian Industry

BR1011155493 Brussels LE SOIR in French 10-11 Nov 93 p 7

[Article by Philippe Regnier: "The Attraction of Dividends of Peace"]

[Text] Will the Palestinian territories soon be liberated from Israeli occupation? "Clearly, it is a region with vast economic potential," judged one Belgian entrepreneur. "We must be a little patient, while the Palestinian institutions become established. However, we must react fast if we are to place ourselves in a useful position." There were at least 30 Belgian company directors sharing his opinion, flanked by representatives of the employers' federations, who did not want to pass up the opportunity of meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. The PLO leader was rounding off his visit to Belgium late yesterday afternoon at the Belgian Foreign Trade Office (OBCE), the body promoting national exports by both the private and public sectors. Moreover, the Belgians had an opportunity to come very close to the Palestinian leader, crammed into a jam-packed room on the 13th floor of one of the towers of the Brussels World Trade Center, where the OBCE premises are located.

However, Mr. 'Arafat did not make any startling revelations to those in attendance. The PLO leader—who would subsequently be addressed on several occasions as "Dear President" by Belgian Foreign Trade Minister Robert Urbain—basically gave details of his government's economic program. However, several of the "priorities" featuring in this program could be of interest to Belgian companies, he hoped, referring to the construction of housing, the development of the seaport at Gaza, which he described as "vital for the economy and sovereignty," the creation of airports at Gaza and Jericho, and the enlargement of the airport at Kalandia, near Jerusalem. Irrigation and the treatment of water and waste were also mentioned, as was the extension to the Gaza Strip of the planned pipeline for pumping water from the Suez Canal toward Sinai, "a subject that I discussed with [Egyptian] President Mubarak." The construction of electric power stations and the development of tourism might also throw up some opportunities for Belgian companies.

Once again, Yasir 'Arafat "encouraged the Belgian and Palestinian private sectors to create joint ventures for small and medium-sized enterprises, with guarantees from the Belgian Government" and the Palestinian authorities. On the other hand, the PLO leader must have disappointed one banker, who learned that the entire capital of the Bank for Reconstruction and Development would be set aside for the Palestinians.

"Our entire infrastructure was destroyed during the occupation. Between now and the year 2000 we will need more than $13 billion for development. We will also need $10 billion in foreign investment," said 'Arafat, who concluded that an entire Palestinian economy has to be created—both the infrastructure and jobs. Accordingly, given this plethora of needs, Belgian companies should find some openings. The Belgian-Arab Chamber of Commerce is already looking into the possibility of sending missions to sound out the new market. A market which is all the more promising in the light of the fact that, on top of the European aid promised to the Palestinians, Belgium will supposedly also unblock funds drawn from the budget for development aid—the remnants of the 1993 allocation could already be unfrozed—for projects which, though modest in scale, are of prime necessity.

PLO Denies Muna al-Ghusayn Named 'Arafat Spokeswoman

PM3011095493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Nov 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "PLO Denies Muna al-Ghusayn Appointed Spokeswoman"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Palestinian mission in London yesterday denied that Muna al-Ghusayn, daughter of the Palestinian National Fund chairman who lives in London, has been appointed spokeswoman for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during his visit to Britain in mid-December.

The denial came in a message of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received a copy. It says that "the mission has received instructions from the PLO headquarters in Tunis to publish the following statement: No one has been appointed spokesman for Yasir 'Arafat during his official visit to London, during which he will be a guest of the government of her majesty the queen next December.

"Thus we urge the press to deal cautiously and responsibly with anyone who appoints himself spokesman, whether now or in the future."

Fatah Said Operating Undercover Police in Territories

TA0101120293 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZEH in Hebrew 10 Nov 93 p 6

[Report by Yoram Binur]

[Text] Fatah is operating an undercover police unit in East Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Bethlehem.

The members of this unit are plainclothesmen. They own cars, some of which are expensive Mercedes, and some have cellular phones. According to Palestinian sources, this force, which numbers several dozen men, is being employed because the Army has so far banned the deployment of uniformed policemen. The force is involved in detective and security missions more than routine policing duties.

Committee Formed To Interrogate Suspected Spy

NC1011125093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1109 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—The weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR reports in its Friday [12 November] issue that the Palestinian official 'Adnan Yasin, who is accused of spying for Israel, has not left Tunisia for another Arab country as some reports have claimed.

The magazine carries a story about his recruitment by the Mosad and his subsequent arrest in Tunis. It reports that a Palestinian committee has been formed to interrogate him that includes 'Abdallah al-Ifranji, the PLO ambassador to Germany; Majid al-Agha, an official in President Yasir 'Arafat's special security detachment; and Amin al-Hindi, director of the PLO Security Department. The committee has also been asked to assess the importance of the information he was able to obtain.

Reports of Second Mosad Agent in PLO Offices Denied

PM1011120693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Nov 93 p5

[Mazin al-Saghir report: "PLO Denies Discovery of Another Mosad Agent"]

[Text] Tunis—In a statement to AL-HAYAH, responsible Palestinian sources have denied Arab press reports of the discovery of another Israeli Intelligence Service (Mosad) agent by the name of Mahmud Sadiq following the arrest of 'Adnan Yasin (Abu-Hani), second in command at the Palestinian Embassy in Tunis, about two weeks ago on the charge of collaboration with Mosad in return for money received by him and his son Hani.

The sources emphasized that Sadiq, a PLO employee, was definitely not involved with Yasin and it so happened, by coincidence, that Sadiq and one of his colleagues were detained after an ordinary dispute between them which developed into an exchange of insults and a fist fight, necessitating the intervention of the Palestinian security organs which act as local police in the PLO departments. The two were apprehended and then released two days later.

AL-HAYAH has asked Muhammad Sadiq's brother Riyad, also a member of the PLO staff, about reports published by some Arab papers on his brother's involvement in the 'Adnan Yasin case. He replied: "The press reports are completely untrue. It is a fabrication and an affront to my brother's national honor and to my family. I will sue these papers and take them to court because people's national reputation is not a game for the press and journalists to play, fabricating news without verification and defaming the strugglers and the PLO itself."

Riyad confirmed that his brother Mahmud is free "and has resumed his work at one of the PLO departments in Tunis."

'Abd-al-Shafi on Taba Negotiations, Syrian Stand

NC1111091993 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, prominent Palestinian politician, in Gaza, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, first of all, now that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is signed, how do you view the current negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides to translate this agreement into reality?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The objective behind the current negotiations is to reach an understanding on the stipulations of the agreement regarding the transfer of authority from the Israeli side to the Palestinian side. These negotiations include explaining the items in the agreement dealing with this issue and implementing them. Because many of the items in the agreement have been worded in a way that allows various interpretations, we believe that these negotiations will be difficult and perhaps slow. They might exceed the specified timeframe.

[Al-Jundi] But these issues were taken into consideration when the agreement was signed. It was known beforehand that negotiations would take place regarding the points in the agreement.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, I reiterate that the points in the agreement need to be explained. They need agreement. Therefore, I believe this is where the difficulty behind these negotiations lies, and this is what actually happened regarding withdrawal from Gaza.

[Al-Jundi] You mean the redeployment of the Israeli Army?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is precisely where the difference lies. Israel explains the text of the agreement as a redeployment of forces. The Palestinian side insists on full withdrawal from Gaza. This is the point of difference.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat agreed to the proposal presented by the two Israeli parties Meretz and Mapam considering Jerusalem the capital of the Palestinian state and the Israeli state. As a prominent Palestinian figure, how do you evaluate president 'Arafat's agreement to this?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Of course, this depends on what is meant by this proposal. A capital of the Israeli state and a capital of the Palestinian state? How is that to happen? Does it mean that our capital will be East Jerusalem and Israel's capital West Jerusalem? Will it be a joint capital?

[Al-Jundi] A unified capital.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Pardon me?

[Al-Jundi] Could it be a unified capital?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Maybe under certain circumstances that are difficult to agree on. Therefore, this proposal is a vague proposal. Israel's objective is to currently find a way out of the Jerusalem crisis and postpone matters for some time. This has always been the Israeli stand. It wants to postpone matters. We do not object to postponement as such, but postponement coupled with continued settlement in Jerusalem is something we cannot accept.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, after you objected to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement that was signed on 13 September in Washington, could we say that the role of Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who headed the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks for a long time, will diminish during the coming stage?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I indicated my unwillingness to participate in the events taking place now for a logical reason. I did not participate in achieving this agreement and I was not consulted about it. There are many qualified Palestinian figures who can perform these roles, especially from among the people who approve of it. This does not mean that because I object to it I will stop calling for national unity based on democracy.

[Al-Jundi] Could we focus on the notion of national unity based on democracy? What is your viewpoint on this?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I believe that one of the most important issues is practicing democracy on all levels so that the Palestinians can have a group leadership capable of exploiting unused Palestinian potential. I believe that in such an atmosphere we will be able to exploit all Palestinian potential, something we need very much.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the prominent Palestinian politician, do you believe that if the Syrian and the Israeli sides reach an agreement during the coming stage the peace process in the Middle East will be launched very quickly, which will speed up the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles?

['Abd-al-Shafi] My understanding of the Syrian position is that the peace process is indivisible. When the Syrians talk about Israeli withdrawal, they mean full withdrawal from all Arab territories—Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian. I believe that this stand is logical. I hope, and I am confident of this, that Syria will continue to adhere to this stand.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, while you are still with us on the phone lines between Gaza and Cairo, we conclude this dialogue and thank you very much.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

PPP Denies Appointing Representative in Taba Talks

JN1111100893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Nov 93 p 15

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] The Palestinian People's Party [PPP] has said that its Central Committee member Hasan 'Asfur, who is taking part in the Taba negotiations, does not represent the PPP in these negotiations and that he was not delegated by any command to take part in these talks. Hence, the PPP will try 'Asfur before a competent party body.

The PPP Central Committe issued a statement expressing deep concern and apprehension toward the PLO's policy of continuing to deal with the Declaration of Principles.

As a significant gesture, the PPP Central Committee called on the Palestinian leadership—the Fatah Movement's partner in the peace negotiations—to stop this policy and review and correct matters to serve the interest of the people and the homeland.

The PPP Central Committee called for a basic constitutional document to establish a democratic authority based on pluralism and respect for human rights.

Israeli Settlers Need 'Slap' From Palestinians

JN1011211393 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: The rabid attacks carried out by the loose herds of settlers against the masses in the occupied homeland will only inflame the glorious intifadah against the occupation's tyrannical forces and settlers.

As the Army of the tyrant occupation is watching the impudence and aggressiveness shown by the herds of settlers against the masses of our people, the heroes of the valiant intifadah have the right to waylay these scoundrels. In fact, these heroes are doing so.

The heroes of the valiant intifadah are exercising their legitimate right to defend themselves and their property against the settlers' repeated aggressions. The occupation's Army and settler scoundrels need a slap in the face from the stone and Molotov cocktail throwers.

The occupation should expect an escalation in the various activities of the blazing intifadah. Yes, the heroes of the intifadah are waylaying the settler scoundrels. The intifadah's knights are waylaying the loose herds of settlers. The occupation has to feel pain and suffer. Victory to the intifadah's heroes. We will triumph, God willing.

'Majority' Feel 10 Factions 'National Voice'

JN1111205893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Palestine Broadcast: "Unattributed Talk"]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation: News agencies carry daily reports on the continued intifadah in the occupied territories. The intifadah takes various forms such as strikes, demonstrations, the writing of slogans, resistance operations against the occupation, setting Zionist plants ablaze, and other methods of struggle.

These activities by the intifadah confirm the popular position that rejects both the Israeli occupation and the

Gaza-Jericho agreement. The momentum of the continued intifadah shows that the masses of the Palestinian people are not loyal to the leadership that signed the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and that the 10 opposition factions are supported by the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people. These factions are thus the national voice that expresses the Palestinian national decision. These factions' voice is the one that can be heard in the occupied homeland. This implies that the overwhelming majority of Palestinians has a unified position against the agreement that was signed secretly in Oslo.

It seems that the phenomenon of meeting away from the limelight has continued even after the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement was signed in Washington. The negotiators have thus run away from the press and its limelight since their steps to implement this agreement have stumbled. This agreement is partial, incomplete, and lies primarily outside the framework of the peace process.

Hamas Spokesman on Palestinian Self-Determination

BR1011163393 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 9 Nov 93 p 4

[Report on interview with Ibrahim Ghosheh, Hamas spokesman in Amman, by Salomon Bouman, in Amman; date not given: "I Never Want To See 'Arafat Again"; names as published]

[Text] Amman, 9 Nov—Is the radical Hamas Movement, which violently opposes the agreement between the PLO and Israel on the occupied territories, planning to participate in future Palestinian self-determination? Letters from Hamas' leader could point in this direction.

Has Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin [as published], who is imprisoned in an Israeli jail, called on his followers to take part in the elections for the administrative bodies of Palestinian self-determination? Ibrahim Ghosheh [as published], Hamas spokesman in the Jordanian capital Amman, was aware of the existence of letters smuggled from Shaykh Yasin in prison which included this new position. "We have seen these letters," he said. "But we doubt their authenticity. After all, Shaykh Yasin is totally paralyzed. Therefore, it is impossible that he could have written these letters himself. Perhaps it is an Israeli propaganda trick against Hamas."

However, in the course of the interview it emerged that Ibrahim Ghosheh's doubts regarding the authenticity of the letters were not as big as he at first claimed. The views of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who formed the Hamas Movement in the Gaza Strip in 1987, count for a great deal. "But our organs will still have to decide whether Hamas will take part in the elections for Palestinian autonomous self-determination," he said. "Hamas is not a homogeneous organization. In Hamas quite sharp debates are continuing about the autonomy problem. In any case, so far Hamas is against Palestinian autonomous self-determination and participation in the elections."

Ibrahim Ghosheh did not hide his contempt for the betrayal of the Palestinian cause by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. He studied with 'Arafat in the 1950's at Cairo University to become a civil engineer. They were good friends, until 'Arafat started looking for an agreement with Israel. "Yasir 'Arafat is a dictator," he said. "I never want to see him again." When asked whether 'Arafat could be killed for sharing a handshake of peace with Prime Minister Rabin, the Hamas spokesman in the Jordanian capital replied: "Hamas is against Palestinians spilling blood among themselves." But at the end of a fairly open interview he formulated his position somewhat differently. "'Arafat has been turned over to the Palestinian people and history," he said. Nevertheless, Ibrahim Ghosheh acknowledged that the Gaza-Jericho agreement had also started off a debate in Hamas ranks on whether the agreement was the beginning of the foundation of an independent Palestinian state. He was convinced that this was not the case. For the Hamas spokesman, 'Arafat has sold the soul of the Palestinian struggle for independence to the devil, i.e., Israel. For the Palestinian people, the agreements meant nothing but a vague Palestinian entity in occupied territory under Israeli control. "Was a Palestinian state mentioned anywhere in the Oslo agreements?" he asked. "No, and that is why Hamas will continue the struggle against Israel, Israeli soldiers, and the far more dangerous Jewish colonists."

Ibrahim Ghosheh realized that the agreement between Israel and the PLO had taken the wind from the sails of the intifada. For this reason it was difficult for Hamas to inspire the Palestinian people in the occupied territories to continue the revolt. "Since the Madrid meeting, Fatah has stopped the intifada," he said. "It is very difficult to continue. Perhaps for some time Hamas will just have to satisfy itself with putting anti-Israeli slogans on the walls of houses in the Palestinian towns and villages. Perhaps now we must train the people who later will continue the fight against Israel."

Despite Ibrahim Ghosheh's doubts, he said that he was certain that the agreement between 'Arafat and Rabin would collapse like a house of cards because it did not meet Palestinian aspirations. Until that has happened, he predicted that Israel would misuse what he saw as the predominantly economics-based agreement with the PLO to economically dominate the Middle East from the Nile to the Euphrates, as a variant to military dominance. "We know the Jews well," he said. "They are hard workers. With their modern industry they make the best products at low prizes. We are afraid of economic domination."

Hamas' ideology rests on the destruction of the State of Israel. "We share that position with the Islamic Arab front," he said. He made it very clear that he regarded the Jordanian elections, if they took place fairly, as a referendum on the agreement between Israel and the PLO. Therefore, the defeat of the Islamic Arab Front must have been a defeat for him.

Ibrahim Ghosheh openly admitted that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement had sowed confusion among the Palestinians in Jordan. The Palestinians were now asking whether their future lay in Jordan or the Palestinian autonomous regions. They did not know how many Palestinian refugees in Jordan would ever be able to return to their former homes. Or when this would happen. 'Arafat, by his historic handshake with Prime Minister Rabin on 13 September in Washington, brought the very sensitive question of the Palestinian presence in Jordan to the surface. In any case, Hamas has a clear ideological answer: "Back to Palestine." That answer is simultaneously the problem of King Husayn, 'Arafat, and Rabin.

Algeria

Malek Addresses Youth on Islam, State Authority

LD1011171293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Speech by Prime Minister Redha Malek at the national Algerian youth conference in Algiers on 10 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] The national conference of Algerian youth began at Club des Pins hall this morning under the chairmanship of the head of government and the sponsorship of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The proceedings of the conference, in which 1,500 youths from all youth stratums, will be focusing on an agenda of 12 topics. The head of government, Redha Malek, has addressed the conference. The following is a full recording:

[Begin Malek recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr. Chairman, minister of youth and sports, ministers, brothers and sisters, our esteemed youth: It is a great honor to be here among you, as the representative of the Higher State Council [HCE] and the government, at your meeting which I consider a good omen and an indicator of our youth's awareness of this phase's challenges and its readiness to face up to them. [passage omitted]

Sadly, we are noticing that some of our youth consider this state as if was not theirs, but merely a strange and alien entity. They deal with this state and with its institutions as if they were foreign, forgetting that whole generations had sacrificed their lives for its sake.

Independence was not a gift, it was the most precious victory for a century and a quarter of bitter struggle. I would like to say that there is no honor nor dignity for those who have no state. There could be no state without institutions and laws that are respected. [passage omitted]

It is not logical to use our pure religion, which we cherished when we liberated Algeria, to destroy Algeria today. Islam forms one of the fundamental pillars of our society, it is the religion of all Algerians. We will not allow the desecration of Islam in the land of Islam, or its distortion in the land that has protected it over 14 centuries.

There are those who use Islam to undermine Islam, national policy, and the glorious principles of November to take us back to the pre-1962 era. We should protect our religion from political demagogy. We are all Muslims, Islam is our sole belief, and this fact cannot be disputed. [passage omitted]

The government is determined, thanks to your understanding and help, to restore the authority and reputation of the state. We are compelled today to unite, shoulder our burdens and build a cohesive and civilized society far removed from fanaticism, terrorism, the imposition of one view, and a monopoly on thought and authority. We are also compelled to appear before the world as a cohesive and tolerant nation able to defend itself and make its voice heard among nations.

Let us pave the way for a solid democracy, in which power alternates, in which security, harmony, and serenity prevail. This groundwork will be completed by the success of the transitional stage, which will be the only opportunity for preparing strong institutions based on law and the people's will. [passage omitted] [end recording]

HAMAS Leader Supports Dialogue, Opposes Violence

LD1011221093 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] [Announcer] The principal issues now present for discussion on the national scope focus on dialogue, preparations for national dialogue, violence, and terrorism. There have been different reactions sparked by an interview given recently by National Defense Minister Lamine Zeroual. On these issues, national television recorded the opinions of some political, social, and cultural personalities. It will begin today to broadcast them. Today's talk is with Mahfoud Nahnah, the leader of HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement].

[Begin Nahnah recording] In the name of God, the merciful, and compassionate. Dialogue is a civilized manner where the rational meet together to overcome any crisis or to deliver any convictions. So, dialogue was and still is an Islamic, national, humane method between the [holy] religions, sects, individuals, between the authority and the people, between parties and parties, to reach the shore of safety with the least overburdening. Because of that, any rejection of dialogue will fall into a [category] that does not befit man and does not honor him throughout time or place. Because of that, we have chosen in our movement, the method of dialogue by a peaceful means, where all the sons of Algeria will meet to [discuss] what will unite them and not what will split them.

As for the violence that has become the era's fashion in our country—and we consider it to have come to us rather than to be derived from our people—we say that violence is a method practiced by those with weak arguments, whether politically, culturally, religiously, or informatively. If violence dominates a person, or a party, agency, or any institution, that means that he has become separated from his people and the values that he believed in. Violence is the method of jungles and not the method of those desiring to deliver convictions in a better way.

Call thou to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and good admonition, and dispute with them in the better way.

Because of that, violence is rejected religiously, nationally, and humanely.

Concerning the military institution that the defense minister talked about in recent days, it has very important intersecting points that meet our inclinations, particularly as this institution is considered the offspring of the National Liberation Army which seized independence from the jaws of colonialism. From this point, this institution is a guarantee of national unity, a guarantee of the unity of soil and heritage. Lately, it is also a guarantee of the outcome of the results of the National Commission. We strongly believe that the military institution is a guarantee for all and without it, there could be a typhoon, God forbid. [end recording]

Kafi Reportedly Resigns Over 'Differences'

PM1111121393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report from Algiers and Randah Taqiyy-al-Din report from Paris: "Campaign in France Against Salvation Front. Differences Drive Kafi to Resignation"]

[Excerpts] AL-HAYAH learned yesterday that differences within the Algerian Government have reached a high degree of tension, driving Higher State Council Chairman [HSC] Ali Kafi to resign. That information has been confirmed by sources close to the presidency. According to these sources, the resignation was submitted two days ago but was rejected.

This information came at a time when France was carrying out its threats against members of the (dissolved) Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] by launching a large-scale arrest campaign, including prominent leading members operating from abroad. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe h[illegible] told AL-HAYAH that the aim of this campaign is to reaffirm that France would never allow its territory to be used as "a rear base for terrorism."

According to Algerian presidential sources, Kafi's resignation was prompted by the "content" of information he accumulated about the attitude of the military establshsment's "hawks" toward him, in addition to the evidience he has about their support for Prime Minister and HSC Member Redha Malek's continuing with the "transitional period" after the dissolution of the HSC on 31 December.

A source close to the prime minister's office has told AL-HAYAH that Malek intends to continue as prime minister in the transitional period provided he gets the powers of "the president of the republic." Some sources say that Malek has been given the "green light" to be active politically even though his government has not submitted any particular program since it was formed three months ago and has only met twice—once for ministers to get acquainted with one another, and the other time for the cabinet to meet with Kafi.

Political observers say that Malek represents the secular trend and is supported by some Army commands and by the minority advocating the "Westernization" program and headed by Saeed Saeedi's Berber Party. They see the dual moves of Malek and his Interior Minister Selim Saadi as "a political campaign" to pave the way to leadership of the transitional period. [passage omitted]

A source close to the office of Youssef Lakhtib, chairman of the National Dialogue Committee, has stated that Lakhtib is unhappy about the instructions given to some members of the committee to exclude the FIS from the dialogue. The source said that it is not unlikely that Lakhtib would resign if the failure of the dialogue is confirmed. [passage omitted]

Human Rights Activist on Arrests in France

LD1011214193 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Excerpts] In Algeria, security measures have been reinforced, in particular around French buildings such as diplomatic offices and schools, in order to avert potential reprisals. [passage omitted] There has been a reaction from one of the supporters of the Algerian Islamic activists: He is Maitre Ali Yahia Abdennour, the chairman of the Algerian League for Human Rights. He spoke to Adala Benraad:

[Abdennour] To make use of the three hostages in Algeria to carry out a swoop in France despite the law, despite the fact that they are political refugees, despite the right of asylum, which France and Europe are no longer respecting, amounts to holding human rights up to ridicule, to striking a serious blow against human rights, and we—those who oppose that—fear that both repression and violence will be stepped up further. If anyone rebels against the laws of the republic, they will be pursued individually, but to pick up all the Algerians on the sole ground that they have a police record... [pauses] We want Algeria to find peace once again through dialogue and national reconciliation, and we want all foreigners, France included, to leave the Algerians to settle their own problems themselves.

Six Customs Officers 'Slaughtered' in Western Area

LD1011223193 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1500 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] In Algeria, six customs officers have been slaughtered in the west of the country by men who managed to escape. This is the first time that customs officers have been the target of attacks since the beginning of the confrontation between the security forces and Islamic armed groups.

Egypt

Interior Minister Vows To 'Uproot Terrorism'

NC1011143793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Addressing a graduation ceremony at the Police Academy today, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi said the security forces are entering a decisive stage in the confrontation of fugitive terrorists. The police, he promised, will uproot terrorism and ensure that it never gains ground in the country.

The ongoing struggle against terror does not involve only the security organs; it concerns the entire country, the minister declared. The latest incidents involving fugitive terrorists presage their inevitable fall. The terrorists are making noises to attract attention to themselves, the minister stated.

Minister al-Alfi said the police will act firmly and decisively to root out these misguided and corrupt elements who endanger the country's interests and safety. The police will continue to vigorously pursue terrorists and ensure that no criminal escapes punishment, the minister vowed.

Palestinian Arrested for Arms Smuggling

NC1011143293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Security services arrested Palestinian Sayyid Tawfiq Hijazi in north Sinai on suspicion of smuggling weapons and ammunition and selling them to terrorists in Egypt.

After pinpointing the suspect, who is known to trade in arms, the state security investigation department ambushed him upon his illegal entry from Libya.

He confessed that along with the Egyptian Sabah Muhammad Sabah 'Id Sulayman, born in 1960, he was involved in arms trafficking.

The Egyptian was arrested in 1990 while trying to steal weapons and ammunition from a military camp in al-Suwayz.

Following extensive investigation, the security services arrested Sulayman after laying several ambushes in places he frequented. [passage omitted]

13 'Terrorists' Injured in Prison Clash

NC1111211693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—Thirteen terrorists were injured today when they tried to prevent the security force from carrying out their duty to reestablish discipline in al-Mazra'ah prison, in the Turah district, south of Cairo.

The security forces this morning began a large-scale search in all the prisons to reestablish discipline and rid the prisons of all contraband, in accordance with prison regulations. Forces of the prisons authority and the central security took part in this campaign.

Some terrorist elements tried to prevent the security forces from carrying out their mission, thus compelling them to use force. Thirteen terrorists, the head of the investigations unit in the al-Mazra'ah prison, and three servicemen were wounded as a result. The campaign resulted in seizing a large sum of money, civilian clothing, and some tranquilizer pills. The prosecution has been informed of the incidents in order to begin an investigation.

Two Fugitive 'Terrorists' Arrested

NC1111195793 Cairo MENA in English 1838 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 11 (MENA)—Two fugitive terrorists have been arrested in Bani Suwayf governorate in upper Egypt, an Interior Ministry official source said tonight.

Jamal Isma'il was ambushed by security agents in Al-Fashn township between Bani Suwayf and al-Minya also in Upper Egypt.

Isma'il is one of the accused in the assassination of Dr. Rifa't al-Mahjub, former People's Assembly speaker and is wanted for his involvement as a link between terrorists inside and outside Egypt.

Terrorist Muhammad Hasan also arrested in Bani Suwayf, is indicted on charges of assault and encroachment on private property.

Al-Jihad Mufti's Wife Interrogated About Funds

NC1011173793 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 8 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by Hasan 'Abd-al-Hamid]

[Text] Security organs are interrogating one of the wives of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, mufti of al-Jihad Organization, in connection with a check in her name for $250,000. The police discovered the check, along with a list of names of terrorists, some executed and some still on the run, and their families.

Security organs have identified a number of lawyers believed to be involved in delivering sums of money to some of the terrorists' families.

The Interior Ministry has discovered documents that pertain to the funding of terrorist groups. One of these was traced to a branch of a leading bank in Khartoum and another to a bank branch in London. Both documents have recent dates. Police are investigating the origins of the documents.

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi is personally supervising the efforts to uncover the terrorists' sources of funding, domestic or foreign.

'Bright Star' Maneuvers To Begin Early Next Week

NC1111154493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—The joint Egyptian-U.S. military maneuvers, known as "Bright Star," will take place on the northern coast west of Alexandria early next week.

Units of the mechanized infantry, armored forces, special troops, and the electronic warfare force, as well as units from the naval, air, and air defense forces will take part in the week-long maneuvers. The maneuvers will include training on bombarding various targets and live ammunition exercises using aircraft and heavy tank guns.

The initial stages of the "Bright Star 92" maneuvers started early last month and lasted for two weeks. The forces participating in the maneuvers carried out the advanced training stage, which included several tactical exercises carried out by units of these forces.

The joint Egyptian-U.S. "Bright Star" maneuvers are significant this year in view of the increasing size of the forces employed by the two sides. They are also important because they come after a four-year hiatus due to the Gulf War and the liberation of Kuwait in 1990. The last Egyptian-U.S. maneuvers were conducted in 1989.

The maneuvers will be attended by military observers from several fraternal and friendly states, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kuwait, England, Germany, France, Italy, and Turkey. Arab and foreign military attaches in Egypt will also attend the maneuvers.

Air Defense Commander on Modernization Plans

NC1011205593 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Nov 93 p 9

[Interview with Air Defense Commander Lieutenant General Ahmad Abu-Talib by Jamal Kamal; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Kamal] Generally speaking, the command and control system is considered one of the important secrets of any army in the world. How can we safeguard the Egyptian system, which is U.S. made?

[Abu-Talib] Although the Air Defense's automated command and control system is made in the United States, its design is 100 percent Egyptian. The systems operating in the United States and NATO countries combine Western air defense elements, but the Egyptian system is unique because it combines all the systems of the Air Defense, Air Force, and Electronic Warfare, from both the East and the West. This is because Eastern weapons are still the backbone of the Egyptian Air Defense forces. The command and control system we have is not available to the forces of others, and I do not want to go into more detail.

[Kamal] How much time does the new command and control system take to discover, warn of, and engage incoming targets?

[Abu-Talib] No time. Under the previous manual system, we had a delay that ranged from seconds to minutes. Now, the alarm sounds as soon as targets appear, and decisions are immediately made to engage the targets.

[Kamal] This is logical during wartime, but what about during peacetime?

[Abu-Talib] Frankly speaking, the fact is that there is no air defense system in the world that cannot be penetrated, particularly at low altitudes. In general, the peace era differs from wartime in terms of the degree of preparedness, that is, a lesser amount of radar is operated to cover specific altitudes in certain directions. However, a system always exists to cover low altitudes, which is observation by the naked eye. It exists during both peacetime and wartime. We have overcome the problem by providing a faster means of communication to report any penetration.

[Kamal] When will the third and fourth stage of the command and control system be introduced to cover all the strategic directions of the Egyptian area of operation?

[Abu-Talib] The Armed Forces have an integrated plan to modernize all their main branches, including Air Defense. The introduction of the second and third [as published] stages of the command and control system is included in this plan. You will hear about this soon.

[Kamal] What considerations do you take into account when modernizing Air Defense, now that we are on the threshold of the second stage of modernization?

[Abu-Talib] There are primary considerations, including the main mission of the Armed Forces and, consequently, the mission of Air Defense, the nature of the area of operation, the technological advances in Air Defense and Air Force equipment, and what the others possess, without getting into an arms race. In general, the modernization plan of the Air Defense forces is proceeding along parallel lines. The first line is to preserve, upgrade, and prolong the lifespan of the equipment in our possession, and by this I mean the Eastern weapons, which, I continue to emphasize, represent the backbone of the Air Defense forces. In this regard, we have managed to upgrade our Eastern SAM missiles by making them laser-operated like the more advanced missiles. We have also upgraded some Western weapons, such as the French Crotale missiles, which we supplied with television circuits. We have also upgraded our Hawk missiles to second-generation type, that is, an "upgraded Hawk." The second line is to manufacture weapons using the capabilities of the Arab Industrialization Organization, the Ministry of War Industry, and the expertise of Egyptian engineers. The Egyptian missile system Sinai-23, which combines the Hawkeye missiles and 23-mm artillery, has already entered the service of the Air Defense forces. We are now ready to meet the demands

or requirements of any Arab country. This system constitutes a major step forward for the Egyptian war industry, and it is no less advanced than the Italian-Swiss system, Skyguard. The third line is to overhaul and provide maintenance to the missiles and air defense systems in our possession and to carry out these overhauls and maintenance operations for all Eastern weapons using Egyptian expertise or in conjunction with other friendly countries. We have the largest center in the Middle East for providing maintenance for U.S.-made Hawk missiles. The fourth line is to acquire some of the advanced air defense systems that suit our capabilities.

[Kamal] Does Egypt plan to acquire the U.S. shoulder-fired Stinger missiles?

[Abu-Talib] This is not being considered. We have the Hawkeye missiles, which are manufactured in Egypt and which are a first-generation missiles. We plan to upgrade them to be on par with the Stinger and Eagle missiles.

[Kamal] Acquiring the Patriot antimissile missiles has become a trend since Operation Desert Storm. Do you plan to acquire these missiles?

[Abu-Talib] The surface-to-surface missiles will always be a threat, but the best way to prevent the use of these missiles is to possess the same weapons. Research has so far proved that the antimissile missiles are not effective weapons. The process requires the detection of a surface-to-surface missile from the moment it is fired until its final impact. This is a very costly operation, and there are many countries that possess weapons other than antimissile missiles to deter these missiles. [passage omitted]

AL-SHA'B Editor Released, To Be Questioned Later

NC1011212693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecutor today released journalist Majdi Ahmad Husayn, chief editor of the opposition Labor Party's paper AL-SHA'B. He was questioned, in his capacity as chief editor of AL-SHA'B, about some editorials he has written for the newspaper over the past few months, as well as some of the articles and reports published in the newspaper and written by Dr. Hilmi Murad, deputy leader of the Labor Party, and journalists 'Adil Husayn, 'Ali al-Qammash, and Salah Bidiwi. The articles and reports were critical of some state officials and described the roles and activities of the Islamic groups. The prosecution will continue its interrogation of Majdi Husayn on Sunday [14 November]. A number of lawyers and members of the Journalists Association attended the interrogation with Husayn.

Musa Interviewed on Peace Talks, Somalia, Libya

PM1011122193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Nov 93 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] What are the most important results of your recent visit to Israel?

[Musa] First, we reviewed the situation which led to the suspension of the Taba negotiations and discussed the views of the Palestinian and Israeli sides, especially as I had been acquainted by members of the Palestinian delegation, headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, with the Palestinian position before I left for Israel. During my talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'om Peres he emphasized that the problem lies in the misunderstanding between the two negotiating parties, and thus the Taba negotiations will begin next week. We also discussed the obstacles preventing the achievement of tangible progress on the Syrian-Lebanese-Israeli tracks and reached practical results, most importantly the resumption of the negotiations among all the parties in Washington.

[Abu-Husayn] Is Egypt seeking to hold a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in order to bring the two sides' views closer?

[Musa] All we are interested in at the moment is to reactivate work and negotiation on the Syrian-Israeli track and to achieve the principle of complete withdrawal from the Golan. And, as Syria says, a whole for a whole.

[Abu-Husayn] What is your opinion of what is being reported about an imminent agreement on mutual recognition between Jordan and Israel?

[Musa] We are looking forward to achieving progress on all tracks. This is the aim of Egyptian policy, which is working for a comprehensive peace.

[Abu-Husayn] Will King Husayn visit Egypt after or before signing the agreement?

[Musa] A date has not yet been set for the visit.

[Abu-Husayn] When will the bilateral negotiations resume in Washington?

[Musa] We are waiting for all the parties, first and foremost Israel, to take positions that in turn lead to the initiation of the negotiation process. We should not ask the Arab side only to take all the steps. We have to expect numerous problems to obstruct the achievement of peace. However, with dialogue we will be able to overcome them.

[Abu-Husayn] Reports coming in from Arab capitals emphasize that Israel is setting the lifting of the Arab boycott of it as a condition for reactivating the negotiation process. What is your opinion?

[Musa] It is premature to talk about ending the boycott now. All the Arab states have on several occasions announced that establishing full peace in the Middle East is bound to fulfill the Israeli request very easily and without any need to impose it.

[Abu-Husayn] What is your opinion of the fears over the Middle East market and Israel's control of the region's economy?

[Musa] We are not talking about a Middle East market or even a particular economic issue. We are following up and participating in the developments taking place in the peace process framework for the sake of the region's future. All discussions are revolving around defining the character of economic cooperation. It is still too early to raise this issue, especially as the peace process is still at the starting point. However, that does not prevent us from anticipating and looking at the future and its general framework. We believe it is important for the Egyptian economy to rise to the level of the event expected in the region and to accept the challenge of the open market, which may be formed in the stage ahead.

[Abu-Husayn] Egypt has made numerous contacts with some Arab states. Do these contacts fall within the framework of renewing the call for inter-Arab reconciliation?

[Musa] The Egyptian leadership is eager from time to time to exchange views and consult with Arab leaders over matters concerning the assessment of the situation in the region and the peace process.

[Abu-Husayn] But these contacts have reflected vague signals to the effect that an Arab summit is being prepared for.

[Musa] We have not discussed holding an Arab summit at present.

[Abu-Husayn] Extensive contacts have been conducted over recent weeks between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt. What are the horizons of political cooperation between the two countries?

[Musa] The horizons of political cooperations are broad and limitless. This is attributable to the historic and strategic relationship between the two countries' leaders: President Husni Mubarak and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. Furthermore, the relationship between the two countries is fundamental and pivotal in the framework of Arab cohesion and care for the Arab region's interests.

[Abu-Husayn] It is being said that there is an international move to give Egypt the role the United States is playing in Somalia after its and the UN forces' withdrawal from there. What truth is there in this?

[Musa] First of all, the foundations on which the Egyptian role in Somalia was based must be clarified. The first one is the presidency of the OAU and its resolutions in this connection. The second is Egypt's interest in its role in the Horn of Africa, which comprises friendly states and peoples, among them Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia. All this prompts us to stress the importance of national reconciliation and Somalia's return to the situation that existed before the factional fighting began. So Egypt's role does not at all mean that it is going to solve the problem singlehandedly, but within the framework of the Addis Ababa resolutions, respect for international legitimacy, and our cordial relations with all Somali factions, all of which—without exception—we believe are entitled to participate in and contribute to implementing the national reconciliation resolutions.

And I would to point here to the cable sent by the 11 Somali factions to President Mubarak following the Cairo meeting among President Mubarak, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmad Salim, and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. We consider these factions' position a good omen with regard to accepting the principle of political dialogue instead of the dialogue of guns, because for its part Egypt believes it is important to achieve national reconciliation among the factions, not the forces.

[Abu-Husayn] So what is the justification for Egypt's dispatch of additional forces to Somalia?

[Musa] That wording is inaccurate. Egypt is participating in the international forces present in Somalia. So the idea is not just to send additional forces, but to continue to participate in the international forces at present.

[Abu-Husayn] Will these forces be entrusted with new tasks such as disarming the factions, or will their role be limited to delivering humanitarian aid?

[Musa] Their task will be within the framework of what the United Nations entrusts them with, in order to restore the normal situation in Somalia.

[Abu-Husayn] Is there anything new with regard to national reconciliation endeavors?

[Musa] Contacts are very active, and what Egypt is primarily interested in, as it has emphasized in the past, is for us to be able during the remaining six months—that is before the U.S. forces, which constitute the main force in peacekeeping operations, withdraw—to end the worrying situation in Somalia and to take steps toward disarmament, rebuilding, and national reconciliation.

[Abu-Husayn] But U.S. envoy Oakely has ruled out the idea of achieving reconciliation at present.

[Musa] We do not not rule out anything, because there are resolutions which can be implemented; in fact all factions should participate in them in Addis Ababa.

[Abu-Husayn] Do you believe the Lockerbie crisis is on its way to a solution?

[Text] [Musa] We hope that that will happen in the near future. For its part, Egypt has exerted efforts that are bound to give room for a diplomatic solution.

[Abu-Husayn] Do you expect the sanctions against Libya to be intensified?

[Musa] Sanctions against Libya could be intensified, especially as reports coming in from the United Nations indicate that it is in the process of preparing to issue a resolution intensifying the sanctions.

[Abu-Salih] Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih announced a few days ago that "Hala'ib is Sudanese and we will not abandon it." What is your opinion?

[Musa] There is no need to continue those statements as long as there is a possibility of holding joint meetings between the two countries. Holding these meetings depends also on a lot of goodwill, especially as their aim should be to protect relations against tendencies or actions threatening these relations. And their basic outcome should be the development of interests that serve the two countries' objectives.

[Abu-Husayn] Has a date been set for the meeting between you and the Sudanese foreign minister?

[Musa] No date has yet been set. This will be done as soon as possible.

Libya Appoints Charge d'Affaires in Cairo

NC1111164893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—Faraj al-Su'ayti (?arrived) in Cairo today to assume his new post as charge d'affaires of the Arab Libyan Follow-up Office [maktab al-mutaba'ah al-'arabi al-libi] in Egypt.

Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libyan delegate to the Arab League, said that the decision to appoint a Libyan charge d'affaires is aimed at stimulating the brotherly relations between Egypt and Libya, particularly following the latest Egyptian-Libyan meeting in the border town of Sidi Barrani. It is to be recalled that Faraj al-Su'ayti was formerly Libya's ambassador to Austria.

National Democratic Party Official Returns from Israel

NC1011140993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Mustafa Khalil, deputy National Democratic Party leader for external liaison, returned to Cairo today from Tel Aviv following a five-day visit to Israel.

Burundi Minister Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC0911200093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] The Burundian health minister arrived in Cairo tonight on a three-day visit to Egypt. Minister Jean Minani, who is also in charge of foreign relations in the legitimate Burundian Government, will hand a message to President Husni Mubarak, the current OAU president.

In an arrival statement, the Burundian minister said that he will brief President Mubarak on the situation in Burundi and discuss with him the OAU role in resolving the country's crisis.

Minister Minani said that he will meet tomorrow with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Ambassador Sa'id Rif'at, assistant foreign minister for African affairs, to discuss developments in Burundi and the government's ideas concerning the way to achieve security and stability in Burundi.

Discusses Crisis With Musa

NC1011154893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met Jean Minani, health minister and envoy of the Burundi Government. Afterward, Minani said they discussed developments in Burundi and ways to resolve the crisis there.

The Burundian minister said his government wants African troops sent to Burundi, because it believes Africans should solve their problems themselves. Minister Minani said things have not returned to normal in Burundi.

Meets Mubarak

NC1111175893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this afternoon received Burundian Health Minister Jean Minani. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa attended the session.

Following the meeting, Minister Minani said that he briefed President Mubarak, as the OAU president, on the situation in Burundi following the coup attempt there. The situation in Burundi is very tragic, particularly in the capital, he added. The Burundian minister pointed out that over 700,000 refugees have fled the country to neighboring states. The Burundian minister expressed the hope that President Mubarak will continue to play his role until all the problems facing Africa are resolved.

For his part, Minister Musa said that the Burundian health minister has come to Cairo as an emissary of the Burundian Government, pointing out that Minani was outside Burundi during the coup. Musa said that Minani briefed Mubarak, who is the current OAU president, on the tragic situation in that country. Musa said that, according to Minani, over half a million people have been killed or wounded and one million displaced. The head of state and half the cabinet members have also been killed.

Musa expressed his regret at the situation. He added that Minani had called on Egypt, President Mubarak, and the

OAU to help restore law and order in that country, urging the dispatch of African troops to his country. Musa pointed out that the UN Security Council agreed yesterday to send UN observers to Burundi, at the request of Egypt.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that the situation in Burundi is still unstable and tense because the government and army are on opposite sides of the conflict. Musa said President Mubarak has ordered that this topic be placed on the agenda of the OAU Secretariat meeting in Addis Ababa next week. If needed, a mini-summit of the OAU will be held in December, Musa said.

South African Envoy Arrives To Open Office

NC1011213993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Justus de Goede, head of South Africa's representation office in Egypt, arrived in Cairo today to open the office. In an arrival statement, he expressed his happiness at the restoration of diplomatic representation between Egypt and South Africa after an absence of approximately 30 years. He hoped that the bilateral relations would witness a great future in all fields, particularly because tremendous efforts are being made to consolidate the ties between Egypt and South Africa.

Notes Importance of Ties

MB1211073193 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2206 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo Nov 11 SAPA—Egypt was important to South Africa for its trade potential and its diplomatic clout in the Middle East and Africa, South Africa's head of its new representative office in Cairo, Justus de Goede, said on Thursday [11 November].

He said Egypt's prominent roles in the Organisation of African Unity and the Arab League, as well as its participation in Middle East initiatives, made it an important connection. "The Middle East and Africa, but the Middle East particularly, have been inaccessible to South Africa," said Mr de Goede who arrived in Cairo on Wednesday night. "We feel that given Egypt's history of active diplomacy this is an essential step in our diplomatic expansion."

He said he had the impression Egyptians would like to see South Africa become a member of the OAU during its current year as chairman of the organisation.

Mr de Goede, whose office will have a large commercial component, will raise South Africa's profile in Egypt and clarify rapid diplomatic and domestic political developments. "One of our problems is that South Africa is not well known in Egypt, both politically and economically," he said, noting that a South African trade exhibition had been scheduled for February.

He said while South Africa had to compete against established American and European companies, initial research indicated it could probably supply Egypt with consumer goods and raw materials such as coal and steel at competitive prices.

Egypt hosts the largest of South Africa's five diplomatic missions in north Africa and the Middle East.

A South African Embassy opened in Bahrain on Wednesday, another will open in Jordan at the beginning of December, and two lower-level diplomatic offices already operate in Tunisia and Morocco.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Pik Botha is scheduled to visit Tunisia and Bahrain next week, Mr de Goede said.

Mr de Goede, who has been posted to London, the Hague, Tokyo and Beirut has served as director of the African Department in the Foreign Affairs Ministry for the past three years.

Libya

UN Resolution on Strengthening Sanctions Assailed

Political Editor on 'Unjust Resolution'

LD1211011893 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2144 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] The policy of pressures and threat applied by the Western states on the members of the UN Security Council for several months has led to the council's adoption today of a resolution imposed by these states concerning the freezing of Libyan Arab financial assets abroad and a ban on the supply of some oil-related equipment. China, Morocco, Pakistan, and Djibouti all abstained.

JANA's political editor commented on this and said: The entire world realizes that this unjust resolution is the resolution of the colonialist states, which have turned the Security Council, under the pressure of a policy of threat and enticement, into a sword hanging over the heads of the peoples and an instrument in the service of their interests.

The world has given its opinion and issued its resolutions through its governments and its international and regional organizations, and that is to support the Great Jamahiriyah's stand in dealing with the crisis between it and the Western states, and also to express its total solidarity with it and to call for the lifting of the coercive sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah as a result of the invalid Resolution 748. This was apparent in the stands taken by the Nonaligned Movement, which is made up of 108 member-states, the Organization of African Unity with its 52 members, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Arab League, and finally the Vatican state. It is also apparent in China's position and before it India's, which between them represent one-third of the world's population.

JANA's political editor added: In view of this international support for Libya's right, and in view of the

human and material damage inflicted upon them as a result of the coercive measures imposed on them, the Libyan Arab people were expecting that this injustice would be lifted. The Security Council, however, took a different way, which runs counter to the collective international will and runs counter to the international conventions and norms, by submitting to the will of the colonial states, which are party to the case involving them and the Great Jamahiriyah.

The editor further said: The Libyan Arab people interpret this new unjust resolution as only a confirmation of a truth that has become apparent to the world, namely the superpowers' control over the Security Council and its subjugation to their desires and its transformation into an instrument to fight the peoples, blockade them, starve them, and obstruct their development and progress.

'Displeasure' With Resolution Noted

LD1211112793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1050 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Nov (JANA)—The People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau has issued the following statement:

The People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau has reviewed Security Council Resolution 883, issued on 11 November 1993.

It expresses its displeasure and extreme sorrow that the council has once again submitted to pressures from and practices of the three countries—the United States, Britain, and France—which depend on the power of force, warning, and threats as the only means of dealing with the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, with the aim of prolonging this dispute so as to inflict the greatest possible harm on the Libyan Arab people and achieving other aims which have nothing to do with the dispute.

The People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau confirms the serious and sincere desire of the Jamahiriyah to reach a solution to this fabricated crisis as soon as possible. It has proved this by providing many initiatives and proposals, which have been met with appreciation and support from international and regional organizations, because they were characterized by flexibility and realism responding to Security Council Resolution 731 of 1992. The latest proposal was a message dated 27 Septemeber by the secretary of the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau to the UN secretary general, saying that the Libyan state does not object to the trial of the two suspects in Scottish courts and that it is prepared to urge the suspects to stand trial in the Scottish courts.

The UN Security Council [word indistinct] resolution and measures will, in addition to the effect they will have on the Libyan Arab people, undoubtedly have similar repercussions on neighboring states, states of the region, and other countries.

The insistence by the three states on considering the Great Jamahiriyah as a threat to international peace and stability is unfounded. These states deliberately ignore Libya's condemnation of all forms of terrorism, its readiness to cooperate with international endeavors to put an end to it, and its call to the UN secretary general to send a mission to investigate the practical measures which prove that the Jamahiriyah has nothing to do with terrorism. Using Article 7 of the UN Charter as a basis for passing this resolution is unjustified.

The General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation once again expresses the willingness of the Great Jamahiriyah to settle this fabricated crisis, disregarding the threats, warnings, and ulterior motives of the three Western states, to prove its innocence first of all, and to cooperate with the international community to reach the truth. It would like to draw the attention of the international community to two points:

1. The extent of the damage that will affect the Libyan Arab people, neighboring states, and the rest of the world as a result of the implementation of this resolution.

2. The serious state of international relations as shown by this crisis. Whenever Britain, the United States, and France have reached agreement on a single point, they have succeeded in imposing it on the international community through the UN Security Council, which alone bears the responsibility for the ensuing material and human damage.

Lockerbie Suspects Refuse Trial in Britain, U.S.

NC1011122093 Paris AFP in English 1044 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] TRIPOLI, Nov 10 (AFP)—The two Libyan suspects in the 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing refuse to stand trial in Britain or the United States but would go to Switzerland, AL-SHAMS newspaper reported Wednesday [10 November].

'Abd-al-Basit 'Ali al-Miqrahi and Al-Amin Khalifah Fuhimah, in an interview to be published Thursday, "Explain why they refuse to go to Washington and London, and they also make other revelations," the paper said.

They do however say they would appear before a Swiss court.

Libya, under Western pressure to surrender the suspects, has said it agreed to a trial in Britain or the United States on the guarantee that the men received a fair hearing. But it would not force them to stand trial.

On Sunday, Britain rejected a Libyan proposal for Switzerland to host the trial and insisted the only acceptable

venue was Scotland. The Swiss judiciary itself turned down an initial Libyan approach in September.

The two men are suspected by British and American authorities of being involved in the attack on a Pan Am Boeing 747 which exploded over the Scottish village of Lockerbie at the cost of 270 lives.

The U.N. Security Council is considering a resolution to step up sanctions on Libya. The country has been under air traffic, arms and diplomatic sanctions since April 1992 because of its alleged failure to cooperate in the bomb probe.

The council has also called on Tripoli to assist the French investigation of the bombing of an UTA DC-10 jet over Niger in which 170 people were killed.

Demand Compensation

LD1111122993 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Nov (JANA)—Al-Amin Khalifah Fahimah and 'Abd-al-Basit 'Ali [Muhammad] al-Migrahi have announced their readiness to go immediately to Switzerland to appear before a court, hoping that the trial will go ahead in order to prove their innocence.

In an interview with AL-SHAMS newspaper, which was published here [Tripoli] today, the two men expressed their full solidarity with the victims' families and reiterated their defiance to America and Britain, stressing that while others have insisted that we should go to America to stand trial, we would like to tell them clear[ly] and openly that if they have hard evidence that will convict us, we are certain that such evidence will convict us in any third country—they will even convict us inside Libyan courts.

They wondered that if there was any evidence against an accused person, what difference does it make if the trial was held in Libya or Malta, or any other place?

Furthermore, the defense coordinator pointed out that if their [British and U.S. justice] excuse was that some of their witnesses could not be called to give evidence before the Libyan justice, then let them bring them to Switzerland.

The two suspects have pointed out that both of them, as well as their families, have suffered material and moral damage. It is therefore their right and the right of their people to demand compensation for such damage.

Suspects' Seek Swiss Trial

LD1111154693 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Hatth [November] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Ibrahim al-Ghwail, the coordinator of the defence team representing the Libyans implicated in the Lockerbie incident called on Professor Esterfan Tereuel and Dr. Dieter Neubert members of the defence team to request the Swiss authorities to agree to the Libyans' willingness to stand trial in a Swiss court even if done so through the secretary general of the United Nations on the condition that the acceptance of the United States is obtained.

In a letter sent to the two Swiss lawyers, Ibrahim al-Ghwail highlighted the important role Switzerland could play, as a result of its favourable reputation and through active participation in the quest for peace in the world. He said that Switzerland's participation was quite necessary given the extremely sensitive situation.

Ibrahim al-Ghwail said that there was evidence that the suspects had lost all faith in having a fair trial in Scotland, which almost everyone is trying to push them into. Just as Britain does not have faith in Libyan justice then the suspects, for well-known reasons, do not have faith in a Scottish court. He said that under such conditions, for the trial to be held in a third country, is not far-fetched.

Libyan Envoy Views Lockerbie, Peace Process

NC1111163293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League, has affirmed that the only way to reach an acceptable solution to the Lockerbie dispute is through negotiations among the parties concerned.

In a statement to MENA today, al-Bishari said that during his recent visit to Damascus he conveyed a message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad from the Libyan leadership. He noted that he was briefed by the Syrian officials on the peace process and the negotiations process with Israel. He said that the talks also dealt with the Arab boycott of Israel, and he expressed his conviction that the time is not appropriate for lifting this boycott.

In his statement, the Libyan diplomat said that his country is not for or against the Gaza-Jericho accord because Libya was not consulted on it.

Answering a question on why Libya has called for an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council, al-Bishari said it will be an opportunity to discuss how to avoid the collapse of Arab solidarity and also to boost the Arab stand and that of the negotiators.

Al-Qadhdhafi Reaction to 'Coup Attempt' Cited

JN1111171493 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 8-14 Nov 93 p 7

[Text] The repercussions of the recent failed coup attempt in Libya are not over yet. An official Libyan source, which considers itself "liberal" and asked for anonymity, has told AL-WASAT that the recent rebellion, which was carried out by Army personnel in the Misratah camp, has encouraged Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to

settle accounts with all opponents, skeptics, and those who have lukewarm relations with him. He put them in prisons after he reported their prominent role to the revolutionary committees. The source estimated the number of prisoners at approximately 5,000, including Army officers from the al-Qadhadhifah tribe. Colonel Miftah al-Dakhil, director of military procurement and one of the free officers [group of officers who staged the September 1969 coup that brought al-Qadhdhafi to power], and Major Salim 'Ali, former commander of the Libyan forces stationed in Lebanon, were also arrested.

The source noted that al-Qadhdhafi has also put Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, inspector general of the Armed Forces, and Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunus, the Armed Forces commander in chief, under house arrest. Meanwhile, 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud has isolated himself in the south, in the stronghold of his tribe, al-Maqarihah.

The source added that the rebellion that took place in Misratah was quelled quickly, and that other incidents took place in al-Zawiyah, 45 km west of Tripoli. These incidents are still raging. Other incidents have also taken place in the Surt area between loyalists of al-Qadhdhafi and members of the family of Colonel Hasan Ishkal, who accuse al-Qadhdhafi of liquidating the colonel in 1981. This compelled al-Qadhdhafi to leave Surt for Tripoli after he gave his orders to withdraw most of the ammunition from Libyan camps and to store them in the main ammunition depot in the Bab al-'Aziziyah barracks.

The Libyan source expected al-Qadhdhafi to apply compulsory military service to all Libyans so that his idea of an "armed people," which he has always called for, will be realized. The source said that al-Qadhdhafi would also apply military laws to all citizens so that every Libyan will become soldiers that cannot reject their leaders' orders.

Concluding, the source said that al-Qadhdhafi will soon carry out a major purge campaign in state, military, and security quarters to prove that he is not wrong, and that those who are wrong are those who destroy his ideas.

Meeting Views Cooperation With Russia

LD1111205893 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Nov 93

The Libyan Arab-Russian committees of experts and technicians began their meetings in Tripoli today to prepare for the joint Libyan Arab-Russian ministerial meeting, which will be held tomorrow in Tripoli under the co-chairmanship of the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International cooperation, and the Russian minister for foreign economic relations [Oleg Davydov].

During the meeting, aspects of cooperation and bilateral relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Russia will be discussed, as well as a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Morocco

King Hassan Appoints New Cabinet

LD1111182593 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The Royal Court in Rabat was the scene of intensive royal activity this afternoon as King Hassan II, may God help him, with Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed at his side, appointed the members of the new government. They are:

Prime Minister	Mohamed Karim Lamrani
Minister of State	Moulay Ahmed Alaoui
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	Abdellatif Filali
Minister of State for the Interior and Information	Driss Basri
Minister of Justice	Mohamed Drissi Ali M'chichi
Minister of Public Health	Dr. Abderrahim Harrouchi
Minister of Finance	Mohamed Sagou
Minister of National Education	Mohamed Gnidirine
Minister of Ocean Fisheries and Merchant Marine	Mustapha Sahil
Minister of Public Works, Vocational and Cadres Training	Mohamed Hassad
Minister of Transport	Rachid Ghazouani
Minister of Posts and Telecommunications	Abdessalam Ahizoun
Minister of Agriculture and Agricultural Investment	Abdelaziz Meziane Belfkih
Minister of Youth and Sports	Driss Alaoui M'Daghri
Minister of Commerce and Industry	Driss Jattou
Minister of Waqf and Islamic Affairs	Abdelkebir M'Daghri Alaoui
Minister of Employment and Social Affairs	Rafik Haddaoui
Minister of Energy and Mines	Abdellatif Guerraoui
Minister of Cultural Affairs	Mohamed Allal Si Nasser
Minister of Housing	Driss Toulali
Minister of Foreign Trade, Foreign Investments, and Handicraft	Mourad Cherif
Minister of Tourism	Serge Berdugo
Secretary-General of the Government	Abdessadek Rabie
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in Charge of Administrative Affairs	Aziz Ahasbi
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister	Abderrahmane Assoubai
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in Charge of the Moroccan Community Abroad	Ahmed Ouardi

Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in Charge of Relations With Parliament	Mohamed Motassem
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister	Omar Kabbaj
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in Charge of Human Rights	Omar Azziman
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister	Abderrahmane Saidi
Deputy Secretary of State to the Interior Ministerin Charge of the Protection of the Environment	Chawki Sarghini

[passage omitted]

Sudan

President al-Bashir Comments on Rebels, Terrorism, Media

Discusses Negotiations With Rebels

EA1011183593 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has reaffirmed the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] states' ability to solve the issue of southern Sudan. He said the group of states charged with this task had begun its contacts with the government and the rebel movement and a committee had been formed to draw up an agenda of the negotiations between the two sides.

In his meeting today [10 November] with the leaders of the information and press organs, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir affirmed the necessity for solving the southern problem within the regional network and far from foreign interferences, pointing out that there are some foreign quarters that are striving for the continuation of the war in the south to achieve their self-interests.

The president of the Republic reviewed in the meeting the results of the Preferential Trade Area summit which ended its work recently in the Ugandan capital, Kampala. He said the setting up of the African common market has put the states of the area within the right framework (?through) self-reliance, far from external pressures. The agreement, which was signed in Kampala, is also regarded as an invitation to businessmen to invest within the framework of the African common market. [passage omitted]

Praises Role of Media

EA1011211593 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has affirmed the role and importance of the media in forming public opinion and its contribution in the process of national construction. He said that the press and publications law is regarded as a development down the path of national work. He pointed out that the revolution will continue its support for the press through the journalists' trade union or through press houses, and will strive to provide the necessary means and inputs of production for it.

After receiving congratulations today at the general secretariat of the Ministers Council from the General Union of Journalists on the occasion of his choice as president of the Republic, His Excellency asked the press to play its role in dealing with the masses directly and notice their problems and to play its role in confronting the unjust information campaign against Sudan.

The journalists' union praised the attention being given by Lt. Gen. al-Bashir to the press, pointing out that the recent appointments in some mass media were regarded as a boost for press work and its promotion.

The president of the Republic promised the journalists' union to provide them with a building after coordinating with the organs concerned.

Calls Terrorism Claims 'Fabrications'

EA1111163793 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Lieutenant General al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has reaffirmed that western and U.S. fabrications and claims concerning Sudan's support for terrorism have no basis in fact. On 10 November His Excellency stated, while meeting with a group of French journalists at the general secretariat of the Ministers Council, that Sudan does not interfere with the internal affairs of any state. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stated that the southern problem is a political problem which the government is striving to solve through dialogue. His Excellency renewed Sudan's welcome of the initiative of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] states and the initiative of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. His Excellency welcomed the group of French journalists, pointing out that Sudan is open to whoever wants to acquaint himself with the truth.

Mr. Ahmad (Barru), head of Radio Monte Carlo's news section, interviewed Lt. Gen. al-Bashir. His interview dealt with the political and economic achievements of the National Salvation Revolution. The interview also touched on the current Arab situation. The president of the Republic reaffirmed Sudan's stand with the Palestinian people. His Excellency described Sudan's support for terrorist movements as an unjust accusation. He pointed out that the question of terrorism has no relation with Islam.

Announces Amnesty for Rebel 'Returnees'

EA1111200593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1635 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Nov (SUNA)—President of the Republic General 'Umar al-Bashir has announced the general amnesty for all the returnees from the rebel

movement, confirming the government adherence on creating the atmosphere to the returnees by providing them by services in peace villages to participate in development in the country. [sentence as received]

Al-Bashir made the remarks at a meeting here with Kordofan state popular delegation which comports [as received] civil administration men who visiting Khartoum recently to renewed allegiance to the president [sentence as received].

Al-Bashir called upon the delegation members to unify ranks, describing the tribal co-existence in the area as model. "The conspiracies of the rebels aims at separating of nation in the country" al-Bashir said. The delegation members explained that their visit aims at refuting the allegations circulated by the western mass media on race cleaning [as received] at Nuba Mountains and reflecting the area issues on development.

Abu-Salih Interviewed on Domestic, International Issues

JN1111174393 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 8-14 Nov 93 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih by Salah 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Amin in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Amin] Are the recent political changes that resulted in the dissolution of the Revolutionary Command Council and the appointment of Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir as the president of the Republic an attempt to give the regime a civilian image so that it would be more acceptable abroad?

[Abu-Salih] Basically, the rule in Sudan was not purely military. It was a military-civilian rule. From the outset, it promised to hand over rule to the civilians. It started doing that in its first three months. A one-year conference for political dialogue was convened to discuss the form of the new regime. It is a regime that adopts a combination of presidential and parliamentary systems. It is based on a representation system that adopts the promotion [tas'id] of members to the National Assembly after passing through the Legislative Council. It is also based on the representation of new forces. This system will be crowned with the general elections. The military council's authorities are now shared by the National Assembly and the president of the Republic. I believe that honoring the promise to hand over power to civilians reflects the credibility of the government's policy.

[Al-Amin] The Sudanese Government has been accused of obstructing the transport of relief supplies to the war victims in the south. How true is this? What was the outcome of the two UN envoys' visits to coordinate relief and study the situation of human rights in Sudan?

[Abu-Salih] This is an unfounded accusation. Sudan has been considered an example to the world by the United Nations in the delivery of food supplies to war victims, and even to the rebels. That was carried out through the "Lifeline" program. If the government does not want to deliver food, then why did it donate 153,000 tonnes of food to the victims? Currently, there are continuous operations with the United Nations to ensure relief deliveries. As for the visits of the two UN envoys, we have offered them the required facilities to enable them to perform their missions.

[Al-Amin] Can you update us on case of the Sudanese nationals detained in the United States on charges of planning the New York blasts?

[Abu-Salih] I do not want to discuss this.

[Al-Amin] The United States accuses you of extending arms to General Mohamed Fareh Aidid?

[Abu-Salih] These are unfounded allegations. Sudan and Somalia are separated by thousands of kilometers, which makes it impossible to deliver any weapons. Besides, Sudan has proposed solutions that have proven to be the best for resolving the problem of Somalia.

[Al-Amin] What is your comment on the accusations that Sudan is serving Iranian interests in the region?

[Abu-Salih] I do not want to comment on these accusations, but they are aimed at discrediting Sudan and harming Islam. The people behind these accusations will not succeed in their efforts. Our relationship with Iran is normal and will continue to be that way. We will not allow anyone to tell us who to have relations with. We are free in this regard.

[Al-Amin] But this was one of the reasons for the deterioration of your relations with Tunis and Algeria, which accuse you of sponsoring their opposition and giving them passports. Take Ghanouchi [Tunisian opposition leader], for example.

[Abu-Salih] We have initiated contacts with Tunis and Algeria as part of our efforts to normalize Arab relations. We hope that the brothers in Tunis and Algeria will realize that a continued breach is not in the interest of the three countries. I think they are now more convinced that things should go back to normal.

Yes, we gave Rachid Ghanouchi a passport for special reasons, but we withdrew it. He has sought political asylum in Britain and he does what he wants.

We gave the former Algerian ambassador in Khartoum unique opportunities not given to any other ambassador. We allowed him to meet with whoever he wanted, even with the president of the Republic, to learn about facts first hand.

[Al-Amin] If a new government is formed, will it open a dialogue with the leftist party opposition abroad to enlarge the circle of participation in the government?

[Abu-Salih] The door is open to everybody to join the national ranks, and not to wait for the government to

collapse, which will not happen. I ask the opposition figures to recalculate and rethink their stands in the national interest. The stands of the opposition, however, are different from those of the rebellion movement, which tries to achieve its aims by force, arms, and negotiations.

[Al-Amin] What do you think of reports about possible international intervention in Sudan, just like what happened in Somalia?

[Abu-Salih] These are unfounded illusions. There will be no international intervention in Somalia. There are no signs of such a thing.

[Al-Amin] What is the background to the closure of the Sudanese Consulate in New York?

[Abu-Salih] This question was misrepresented by the media, especially the Arab media. What happened was that the U.S. State Department circulated a memorandum to foreign embassies about the need to get permission for consulates from it and from the New York mayor. The move was not meant to be against Sudan, as the U.S. State Department itself said.

Foreign Ministry Emphasizes Relief Efforts to South

EA1011213893 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1800 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] The first under-secretary at the Foreign Ministry, 'Umar Baridu, has reiterated Sudan's rejection of terming the southern Sudan question as a forgotten tragedy, pointing to the efforts being exerted by the government for conveying relief materials to the war-affected areas, referring to the operation Lifeline Sudan which was implemented by the Sudan Government in full collaboration with the United Nations and the voluntary organizations. Baridu was responding at the Foreign Ministry regular forum to the recent press statement given to a REUTER correspondent in Nairobi by the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican and special U.S. administration's envoy for following up delivery of relief supplies to central and eastern Africa.

Air Force Said To Have Chinese Fighter Planes

PM1011103093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by military editor: "Khartoum Has Chinese Weapons Previously Not Known To Have Been in Its Possession"]

[Excerpts] London—Specialized Western defense sources have recently revealed that Sudanese Government forces have used Chinese-made weapons not previously known to have been in Sudan's possession. They described the appearance of these weapons in Sudan's possession as a "surprise" and saw it as "evidence that military cooperation between China and the government of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir is much closer than previously believed."

The sources spoke in particular of what they described as "definite information" that the Sudanese Air Force has used Chinese Qiang-5 fighter aircraft, also known as A-5 and known in NATO circles as Fantan. They added that there are "television and photographic pictures proving the existence of these fighters in the Sudanese Air Force." They also said that "this was not known until recently when this material evidence became available showing such aircraft taking off on combat sorties from Juba airport in southern Sudan."

The appearance of Qiang-5 (A-5) planes in the Sudanese Air Force was indeed a surprise. [passage omitted]

According to current information from international defense sources about the Sudanese Armed Forces, Khartoum has, over the past two years, been able to rebuild a considerable part of its military arsenal basically through Chinese armament and Iranian funding.

The Sudanese Armed Forces had extreme difficulties in the late eighties and early nineties, so much so that international sources believed at the time that these forces were on the verge of collapse. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Iraqis Open 'Heavy Fire' on Patrol Unit 10 Nov

LD1011165193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1618 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, 10 Nov., KUNA—The Interior Ministry Public Relations Department has stated that an exchange of fire took place at dawn today between a Kuwaiti patrol unit and Iraqi forces, but no casualties were reported on either side.

In a statement published on this matter, the department said that the Iraqi forces opened heavy fire on a Kuwaiti observation patrol unit positioned at al-Mazari' center, east of al-Abdali border post; the unit returned fire after requesting reinforcements.

The statement indicated that there were no casualties among the members of the Kuwaiti patrol unit. [passage omitted on similar exchange of fire between Kuwaiti and Iraqi forces 2 November]

Iraqi Overtures on POWs' Release Rejected

PM1211121093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Nov 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Kuwait Rejects Iraq's Proposals To Release Prisoners"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Kuwait yesterday rejected the Iraqi initiatives Baghdad is trying to propose through some parties to resolve the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners it holds. Jasim al-'Awn, Kuwaiti social affairs minister, who is currently in Cairo, said that these initiatives are an attempt to get around the UN resolutions, and that Iraq's aim is to avoid compliance with these resolutions and to confine the issue to the Arab context.

He added that Kuwait supports any initiatives through which it senses any serious attempts to release the Kuwaiti prisoners held by Iraq. He expressed his hope of securing a new initiative for the sake of the prisoners' release.

He said that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid had expressed understanding of this issue and of the real tragedy experienced by the victims' families. He added that Kuwait appreciates the efforts being made in this connection by the Arab League secretary general.

Saudi Arabia

Al-Salafiyah Opposition Training Camp Found

NC0911192293 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 29 Oct 93 p 16

[Text] Saudi opposition sources said that the Saudi authorities recently discovered a training camp for members of the al-Salafiyah movement in the Asir area. The authorities confiscated large amounts of weapons and ammunition belonging to the Saudi Salafis.

It is worth noting here that the al-Salafiyah movement currently opposes Saudi policy. Ever since the second Gulf war, it has been subjected to many arrest campaigns.

BCCI-Linked Bank Adds $1.6 Billion to Capital

NC1111054493 Paris AFP in English 1642 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 10 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia's National Commercial Bank (NCB), the biggest in the Gulf, announced Wednesday [10 November] it had injected more than 1.6 billion dollars into its capital to meet international adequacy standards.

The NCB, which hit headlines over its link to the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), pumped six billion Saudi riyals (1.63 billion dollars) into its capital.

In a statement sent to AFP, the Jeddah-based bank did not specify the new capital but its 1989 balance sheet showed it at only 30.2 million riyals (eight million dollars), although its assets are the largest in the region.

"The injection of six billion riyals of fresh capital is a vote of confidence in NCB's future," its chairman Shaykh Muhammad Ibn- Mahfuz said in the statement.

He said the new capital, probably financed from profits and general reserves, boosted the bank's adequacy to around 10 percent, or to 14 percent if the reserves are included.

"This level compares favourably with the standard set for commercial banks worldwide by the BIS," the statement said, in reference to the adequacy requirements announced by the Bank for International Settlement.

NCB has not released its balance sheets for three years due to problems related to non-performing loans.

In 1992, BCCI liquidators filed suit to claim 10.5 billion dollars in damages from NCB and its owners alleging that they undertook certain transactions in BCCI shares without notifying regulators.

NCB, owned by the Mahfuz and Ka'ki families, last announced its results in 1989, when it showed no profits as it was forced to transfer all its operating income as a provision against bad and doubtful loans.

Shaykh Muhammad said the bank's assets had declined to 63.7 billion riyals (16.9 billion dollars) from 78.1 billion riyals (20.8 billion dollars) due to the closure of its branches in New York, London and the Grand Cayman Islands.

But most of the assets were recovered in the first half of 1993, according to the bank.

"In any case, the present level of assets and the 52 billion riyals (13.8 billion dollars) in customer deposits at the end of 1992 still rank NCB as the leading Middle Eastern bank in these categories," the statement said.

Yemen

Salih Sends Letter to al-Bid Stressing 'Unity'

JN1011205693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has stated that all point of difference in the country are open to discussion provided the unity of the country is not renounced.

Official Yemeni sources told reporters that President Salih incorporated this statement in a letter he sent to his deputy, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, today on the occasion of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee meeting. The sources added that President Salih stressed the need not to renounce unity in his letter, saying that such firm principles cannot be renounced. The source said that Salih's letter to his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid is the first official contact between the two men since August when al-Bid left for Aden.

YSP Press Release on 'Extraordinary' Session

JN1111111693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee yesterday evening concluded the meetings of its 31st extraordinary session in Aden. The session was chaired by brother 'Ali Salim al- Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general and Presidential Council vice chairman, and attended by members of the YSP parliamentary bloc, secretaries of the YSP organizations in various governorates, and a number of YSP cadres.

During the session, the YSP Central Committee discussed an important report presented by brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Central Committee secretary general, in which he reviewed the latest political developments in the Yemeni arena that occurred between the 30th session, which convened in mid June 1993, and the current session.

The Central Committee praised highly the role played by the secretary general and the Political Bureau in leading the party and strengthening its place in the political life during the past phase, in accordance with the YSP strategic goals of unity, democracy, and reform.

The session also highly praised the work of the YSP parliamentary bloc in the House of Representatives, as well as the work of the party organizations in various governorates. That activity exemplified values that have great meanings in the party's internal life and its connection to the masses in all fields of life, including its place in the government coalition. The YSP's call for forming that coalition after the parliamentary elections of 17 April 1993, was an intelligent embodiment of the party's adherence to democracy and the outcome of the elections, and was based on its belief in the need to expand the scope of participation as a prerequisite for stability and development.

Discussions during the YSP Central Committee's 31st session confirmed the responsible position adopted by the Central Committee members in the face of the current political developments, which, with their serious dimensions, constituted a crisis that went beyond the limits of the usual methods employed by those who beat the drums of crises as a means to run the government when people's pain and complaints are raised to protest hard conditions.

In a press release it issued on the proceedings of the 31st extraordinary session, the YSP Central Committee adds. Waving the card of this crisis in the face of the country aims to counter the broad popular discontent and silence the voices that call for rectifying conditions in the country and renouncing the practices that aim at depriving the unity experience from its democratic and national dimension, as well as the practices that aim at aborting any national effort put on the right track, a process which started on 22 May 1990. That event [unity on 22 May 1990] failed to penetrate trumpets of the influential forces in certain agencies, which viewed this national event from their own perspective; that unity means the annexation of a part of the homeland, which carries no meaning of change or a plan that urges every one else to abandon their old schemes and their protectors in the agencies that were set up to protect these schemes and the interests formed within their context.

The press release says: Unity has constituted a historic reservoir for national awakening, aspired for by all masses in our beloved homeland. The interests formed outside the context of that major event were, unfortunately, more capable of besieging it in unequal challenges with the agencies, institutions, and the mentality that forced its own views after its genuine forces were made busy with the astronomical price hikes, the deterioration in social services, and the revival of blood feuds and security incidents, and other worries of life which reflected either a negative or a deliberate attitude by the centers of decisionmaking in the state machinery.

The YSP Central Committee warns against the spread of military manifestations in the country. It says the military manifestations that spread in parts of the country in the past few days confirm, beyond any doubt, that the country needs a major national effort in all directions, including a frank and candid encounter with the forces that feel superior to the national dialogue by hinting or threatening to push for military confrontation as a means of pressure and extortion in the management of the political crisis.

The YSP Central Committee's press release notes that the unity that was achieved through the democratic and peaceful choice has brought along with its national plan a regional and pan- Arab plan, based on strengthening ties with the brothers in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf and the brothers all over the Arab homeland. Within the context of that plan, Yemen seeks to achieve security and stability in this region, whose citizens must cooperate together in a spirit of brotherhood and amity.

This fact confirms that such a plan needs a state that maintains order, protects charters, respects the rights of others, and demands others to respect its rights and their obligations toward it.

The statement adds that Yemen gained its world respect only through a system that respects human rights and implements its obligations toward world issues and mutual interests.

The YSP statement highly valued the status Yemen enjoys with the brothers and friends, who voiced their concern and expressed readiness to support Yemen to overcome any ordeals. The statement explains that the YSP views these efforts as a position that is worthy of respect and appreciation.

The statement concludes: The YSP reaffirms its adherence to unity and democracy, an option baptized by blood and sacrifices. It believes the way to end the current crisis lies in reaching a political agreement within the state of unity which can form the basis for strengthening its national and democratic character and execute its programs away from the containment, monopolization, and obliteration attempts.

The Central Committee adopted a number of decisions, including a decision to postpone the convening of the YSP Fourth General Congress.

Cabinet Meets in Aden, Discusses Situation

JN1111121493 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers met this morning in the economic and trade capital of Aden under Prime Minister brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

At the outset of the meeting, the brother prime minister welcomed the cabinet members to this meeting which is being held for the second time in the economic and trade capital of Aden. In the first cabinet meeting in January 1991, it was decided to hold periodic cabinet meetings in the economic and trade capital and in other governorates so that the cabinet may always be familiar with all issues and concerns of the citizens and be in a position to solve them.

The brother prime minister said that 1991 was a year of activity and work, during which much was achieved on the road to entrenching the pillars of the unity state. He said he regrets the obstructions and security setbacks that took place in 1992 and so far in 1993, which prevented the government from completing its program, the program of national construction and reform. He affirmed the importance of working to end all manifestations of tension and instability in a manner that will allow for the completion of the national tasks by the people in the field of development and progress.

The brother prime minister said he hopes this year will see the end of the problems that obstructed and confused the march of unity, democracy, and reform. He stressed that this can be attained if there are good intentions and if words are linked to deeds. He said that many issues should be rearranged to enable the state institutions to work in a sincere manner, particularly regarding the regulation of the relationship among the state institutions and authorities within the framework of the constitution. He noted the importance of the Council of Ministers assuming its responsibilities with high efficiency, and working with a team spirit to attain the supreme national interest for the implementation of the tasks that it must carry out in cooperation with the other state bodies and authorities far from narrow-minded partisan policies and duplication of work.

The brother prime minister then spoke about the topics listed on the agenda of the meeting, including the statement by the House of Representatives on the political crisis which raised many issues and problems that were discussed within the framework of the coalition. The prime minister reviewed the government's efforts to seek solutions to all issues. He said he is confident this meeting will be successful and productive to help pursue work within the framework of the constitution, and within the framework of the separation of powers, cooperation, and integration among state bodies.

The cabinet then studied the House of Representatives' statement on the political crisis. It discussed in detail all the points contained in the statement, and exchanged viewpoints on them.

Emphasis was laid on the importance of working with a sense of national responsibility and exerting good offices for soundly tackling the problems the Republic of Yemen currently experiences to enhance unity and democracy and to carry out reform, construction, and the establishment of a state where order and law prevail.

The Council will continue its meetings in the economic and trade capital tomorrow, Thursday, God willing.

Cabinet Pleased With 'Positive' U.S. Statement

JN1111175693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers this morning resumed its meeting in the economic and commercial capital, Aden, under brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister.

The Council of Ministers continued to discuss the statement issued by the House of Representative on the current crisis in the country. The Council of Ministers made several decisions and took several measures relating to the implementation of the instructions to the government on responsible participation in finding a quick solution to all questions. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers was extremely satisfied with the statement it received from a U.S. State Department spokesperson on the situation in Yemen. The Council of

Ministers expressed appreciation to the U.S. Administration for this positive attitude.

Salih Orders New Military Checkpoints Removed

JN1111130993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Excerpts] In a session today under Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the House of Representatives discussed the results of the fourth meeting held by the committee which the House set up to follow up and investigate the crisis. Three subcommittees were set up to make field visits to the newly created checkpoints and other military manifestations, and to ascertain that they have been removed.

The House also discussed the message which brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, sent to the brother defense minister and the brother chief of staff instructing them to prevent movement and reinforcement from one military unit to another or any new formations, and to remove all newly created military checkpoints because these points constitute a negative feature of division.

The House also discussed the message containing the instructions of Defense Minister Brigaded General Haytham Qasim Tahir to all Armed Forces units to remove all newly created checkpoints and other military manifestations. [passage omitted]

The committee voiced appreciation of the great cooperation and the facilities provided by all concerned quarters to remove all newly created checkpoints and other military manifestations as a serious and effective start to ending the crisis. The committee will continue its meetings on Thursday and Friday, as charged by the House of Representatives, which is in an open session until the crisis ends.

Assassination Probe Yields No 'Definitive' Results

JN1111180293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', brother Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil, the interior minister, has said investigations into the assassination attempt against the two sons of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the vice chairman of the Presidential Council, have not arrived at any definitive conclusions regarding the suspects, their affiliations, or their motives.

He reaffirmed that the Ministry of Interior will redouble its efforts to pursue the investigations and will inform the public of the truth at the appropriate time.

Army Said Neutral in Current Political Crisis

JN1211123893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Nov

[Text] Sanaa, 12 Nov (INA)—A responsible source at the Yemeni Defense Ministry has categorically denied reports circulated by foreign news agencies on moves by Yemeni Army units in certain Yemeni cities and areas.

In statements published by 26 SIBTIMBAR, mouthpiece of the Yemeni Armed Forces, the source said these reports are fabricated and unfounded.

He stressed that the Armed Forces members in all parts of the Republic of Yemen are committed to complete neutrality in the current political dispute among the Yemeni parties. He said the Armed Forces realize their national role to protect the genuine gains of the Yemeni people, at head of which are the country's unity and democratic march.

Spokesman Denies Exchange of Fire With Kuwaitis

JN1011175493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1741 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—An official Iraqi spokesman today denied any exchange of fire with the Kuwaiti side.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, he said that these reports are completely fabricated and unfounded.

UNIKOMF: No Iraq-Kuwait Clash

JN1111195093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] United Nations, 11 Nov (INA)—The United Nations [Iraq-Kuwait] Observation Mission, UNIKOM, has stated that its investigation into the allegations made by the regime imposed on Kuwait has confirmed that no clash occurred yesterday.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent at the United Nations has learned that the UNIKOM command sent a cable to the UN General Secretariat in New York notifying it that the investigation has not confirmed any clash. Official UN sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, believe that the UNIKOM is convinced that the Kuwaitis were the ones who fabricated this story.

The UNIKOM explained that the investigation found no traces of the tires of the Iraqi vehicles that the Kuwaiti side claimed opened fire. The official UN sources said that at the site of the alleged clash the UNIKOM only found blanks of a type used only by the Kuwaiti side.

It is known that the propaganda agencies of the rulers imposed on Kuwait persist in fabricating falsehoods and untrue propaganda with the aim of harming Iraq. Last week, these agencies fabricated another incident. However, UNIKOM's investigation revealed that the Kuwaiti side was the party that opened fire, and that no fire was opened by Iraqi policemen.

Opposition Radio Reports Pilots Arrive in Sanaa

NC1111215493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Reports from Sanaa say that 16 Iraqi fighter pilots arrived in Yemen recently to help Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in time of need. Press reports in London today affirmed that the pilots, unlike the Yemeni Air Force pilots, are trained to fly night sorties.

Yemeni security sources did not deny the reports, but added that the Iraqi pilots—who stayed for a while at the Sanaa Sheraton Hotel, posing as engineers—could have been transferred to a guest house.

Saudi 'Interference' in Yemeni Affairs Decried

JN1111115193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0705 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Nov (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH newspaper has denounced the Saudi rulers' interference in Yemen's domestic affairs and Saudi Arabia's attempts to ignite political sedition in the country.

In an article entitled "Yemen... How to Overcome the Political Crisis," the paper says that the people of Yemen know, before anyone else, how much Saudi Arabia paid in bribes and how much it spent for the perpetration of crimes aimed at igniting sedition among political forces. Moreover, the people of Yemen realize the serious role played by other foreign circles and their blatant interference in Yemen's domestic affairs.

The paper adds: While the Yemeni leaders are busy building their unionist experience, foreign interference in Yemen's domestic affairs is taking many forms in order to prevent the people of Yemen from sucessfully completing their big project or at least divert Yemen from its democratic course and ignite seditions and tribal wars. This is aimed at keeping Yemen in its current state if not causing it to fall back during the era of unity.

AL-QADISIYAH says that the leaders of Yemen and its political forces are aware of the reality and dimensions of the problems facing Yemen. They are also aware that their choice of unity was a historic choice that entails deep-rooted responsibilities of a new type.

The paper calls on unionist and democratic forces in Yemen to be cohesive out of loyalty to the history of Yemen and its people and their Arab nation. It also calls on these forces to reaffirm that they are stronger than crises and are capable of aborting all suspect schemes.

Italian Parliamentary Delegation Meets Leadership

Tariq 'Aziz Calls for Normalized Ties

JN0911171393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—Iraq has reiterated interest in the restoration of normal relations with Italy, something that would serve the interests of both peoples and countries.

This was reiterated by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, during his meeting today with an Italian parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Angelo Cresco, head of the Italian-Middle East Relations Bureau of the Italian Parliament and member of the Italian Socialist Party.

Discussing Iraq's implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq has fulfilled the obligations that have been imposed on it, and that the UN Security Council is required to fulfill its

obligations toward Iraq in accordance with the letter and spirit of UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 687.

He praised the Italian Parliament's initiative of sending a delegation to visit Iraq to have a close look at the suffering and human tragedies resulting from the blockade.

Delegation Head Urges End to Embargo

JN0911190593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir today received an Italian parliamentary delegation led by Angelo Cresco, head of the Italian-Middle East Relations Bureau and deputy chairman of the International Parliamentary Group.

The prime minister stressed the Iraqi people's determination to continue reconstruction and steadfastness in the face of the unjust blockade imposed by the United States and its evil allies.

Mr. Cresco, head of the Italian parliamentary delegation, urged the United Nations and the world states to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq and to end its people's suffering as a result of the medicine and food shortages. He stressed the importance of Iraq's return to its international status. He pointed out the deep relations that existed between Iraq and Italy. He stressed the need to bolster these relations in the interest of the two peoples.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Council of Ministers secretariat.

Ramadan Assails U.S. 'Hegemony'

JN1011155793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1358 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, has asserted that the Iraqis, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, will not relinquish the principles that they believe in, that they struggle for, and that they make great sacrifices for. He said they adhere to their independent policy and their sovereignty.

During his reception here today of the Italian parliamentary delegation led by Angelo Cresco, head of the Italian-Middle East Relations Bureau and member of the Chamber of Deputies for the Italian Socialist Party, Ramadan said that the war of blockade that the enemies are still waging under the leadership of the United States will fail, just as their ugly and brutal aggression previously failed.

Ramadan also said that the states and governments that bow to the hostile U.S. policies have lost their independent will and their legal representation of their peoples who are seeking independence and rejecting subservience.

The vice president pointed out that U.S. Administrations' crimes in many parts of the world, their interference in countries' domestic affairs, and their plans to impose lackey rulers on nations show that their slogans and protestations about protecting human rights are false. They are aimed at deceiving the world public opinion and dominating nations.

He added that U.S. hegemony over the world will undermine security and stability. Therefore, he said, these hostile policies, which conflict with international laws, charters, and norms, should be confronted.

The head and members of the Italian parliamentary delegation said that the continuation of the blockade against Iraq's people is clear and direct aggression committed with economic weapons. They also said that there is growing activity among world parliaments, parties, and organizations, that also demand the lifting of the blockade on Iraq.

They also expressed their eagerness to work to lift the blockade and resume cooperation relations with Iraq, which is considered an important and major state not only in the region, but also throughout the world because it plays an influential role in the international arena.

Delegation Makes Statement, Departs

JN1011175193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1548 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—The Italian parliamentary delegation, which paid a visit to Iraq lasting several days at the invitation of the Iraqi National Assembly, concluded its visit and departed today.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY before departing, Angelo Cresco, head of the delegation and head of the Italian-Middle East Relations Bureau, said the delegation's visit was very positive and that the Iraqi National Assembly and the Italian Chamber of Deputies reached several points of understanding. The delegation, he said, also acquainted itself with the situation of the Iraqi people, who are suffering as a result of the three-year-old blockade.

He added that the blockade constitutes continuing aggression against Iraq, stressing that it was time for it to be lifted. He said that the delegation would work for that goal and would exert every effort to entrench the bases of international peace, which the world needs more than further wars.

Cresco also said the international blockade on Iraq has caused severe damage to the Italian economy in particular and the European economy in general, pointing out that Italy is among the European countries whose companies and individuals have been affected by the blockade. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Japanese Greens Party Delegation

JN0911183693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Comrade Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received a delegation from the Japanese Greens Party led by Miss (Nusyu) Toshima. Comrade Tariq 'Aziz praised the Japanese Socialist Greens Party's efforts and activities in support of Iraq and its calls for assisting Iraq and demands that the unjust blockade imposed on its people be lifted.

The Japanese delegation's head affirmed her party's continuous support for Iraq and demand for lifting the blockade imposed on its people.

The meeting was attended by the director of the Foreign Relations Bureau.

Delegation, Dance Troupe Departs

JN1011162193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—Miss (Nusyu) Toshima, the leader of the Japanese Greens Party, her delegation, and the dance troupe accompanying her, left Baghdad this afternoon after a five-day visit to Iraq.

The Japanese dance troupe accompanying Miss (Nusyu) Toshima presented a show at the national theater in solidarity with Iraq's people.

Parliament Speaker Returns From Far East Tour

JN1011140093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and his accompanying delegation returned to Baghdad last night at the end of official visits to China, Malaysia, and Thailand. In a statement to an INA correspondent today, Sa'di Mahdi Salih said that, during the visits, parliaments in these countries were acquainted with the negative effects of the continued unjust blockade despite Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations. The parliaments were urged to adopt firmer stands in order to end the human suffering in Iraq, he said. The National Assembly speaker added that the Iraqi parliamentary delegation also expressed Iraq's desire to see these friendly countries adopt positive stands in the international and parliamentary quarters in light of Iraq's stand and its fulfillment of international obligations in order to end the negative repercussions of the blockade on its people.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih added that he discussed with officials in these countries Iraq's commitments in light of the international resolutions and in accordance with what was included in Resolution 687. He added that he also discussed cooperation between Iraq and these countries to serve these nations' interests.

The speaker of the National Assembly said that these visits were successful and fruitful and achieved their objectives in explaining the situation to the friends in order to help them in their efforts to end the unjust blockade on Iraq.

Kuwaiti, Saudi Facilities to Allied Aircraft Protested

3-5 Nov Sorties Reported

JN0911192493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Iraq has protested to the Arab League the facilities being offered by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace. Iraq has noted that such violations constitute a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League noted that on 3, 4, and 5 November, U.S., British, and French aircraft continued to violate the Iraqi airspace. Having taken off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, they carried out 86 hostile air sorties.

Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League asked that the letter, along with a list detailing these violations, be circulated to member states.

6-7 Nov 'Violations' Protested

JN1011143493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that the the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have continued to offer facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace, thereby posing a serious threat to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League noted that on 6 and 7 November, U.S., British, and French aircraft continued to violate the Iraqi airspace. Taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, they carried out 89 hostile air sorties.

Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League asked that the letter, along with a list detailing these violations, be circulated to member states to acquaint them with these regrettable facts.

8-9 Nov Sorties Noted

JN1211123193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have continued to offer facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace, thereby posing a serious threat to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

A letter to the Arab League secretary general notes that on 8 and 9 November, these aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace. Having taken off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, they carried out 81 hostile air sorties.

Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League asked that the letter be circulated to the member states.

U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' 3-7 Nov Protested to UN

JN1111131793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1007 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] New York, 11 Nov (INA)—Iraq has informed the United nations that the U.S. aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace on reconnaissance and provocative missions.

In a memorandum sent to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's permanent representatives to the United Nations said these aircraft between 3 and 7 of November conducted 270 sorties over large areas of northern and southern iraq. The memorandum also notes that the TRS1 reconnaissance aircraft on 6 November flew over the areas to the south of al-Nasiriyah and then disappeared over the Jabal Sinam area in the direction of the Kuwaiti borders.

Defense Minister Visits 2d Army Corps 10 Nov

JN1011164293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—Fighter Staff General Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid today visited the al-Yarmuk Forces Command, 2d Army Corps.

During the visit, he met with the commander of the heroic al-Yarmuk Forces, who holds the rank of a fighter major general, and listened to an explanation of the progress of training, as well as the fighters' high morale and readiness to defend the homeland.

In a speech he delivered during the visit, the fighter defense minister said: Victory is always for the faithful, patient, and self-denying men, who shape the future through their deep faith, creative work, investment of capabilities, and the Iraqi way of living under the unjust blockade imposed on our mujahid people.

He asserted that the enemies of Iraq will reap nothing except defeat, disappointment, and historic disgrace generation after generation.

Attends 'Daring Thrust' Exercise

JN1111164493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Fighter Staff General Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid has attended the live-fire Daring Thrust exercise executed by the formations of the heroic Salah-al-Din Forces in the operations sector of the al-Yarmuk Forces, 2d Army Corps.

The fighter defense minister lauded the efforts made by the supervisors and troops for their physical fitness, high endurance, and adaptation to work under difficult circumstances and atmospheres.

The Daring Thrust exercise was also watched by fighters Staff General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah, the army's chief of staff; his assistant for training; the Armed Forces' inspector general; the comrade colonel secretary of the command of al-Yarmuk's Military Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; and an elite of senior army officers.

Kurdish 'Prime Minister': No Aid Diverted to PKK

NC1011164793 Paris AFP in English 1508 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Nov 10 (AFP)—An Iraqi Kurdish leader denied Wednesday [10 November] that humanitarian aid had been diverted to Turkish separatists.

Kusret Rasul, prime minister of the self-proclaimed "regional government of Kurdistan," was denying charges Monday by Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller that Iraqi Kurds diverted aid they received to the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

"We are against terrorism and for democracy, we will watch and control our border with all our means," he said, adding that his government, which is not recognized internationally, sought good relations with Turkey.

In another development, 1,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees from the Karkuk region south of here demonstrated at the regional government's headquarters demanding food supplies and shelter, following calls from the Kurdish Refugee Society (KRS).

About 400 of the refugees facing the onset of winter are homeless.

Some 30,000 Kurds from regions controlled by Baghdad have fled to the Kurdish zone. Another 10,000 refugees came from Iran or Turkey.

The Kurdish government was established in 1991 in northern Iraqi provinces seized by guerrillas hostile to President Saddam Husayn.

Regime Said Trying To Cover Up Crimes in Marshlands

JN1111074993 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] The ignorant and rancorous regime in Baghdad is trying nowadays to cover up its wicked crime of using poisonous substances and other chemical weapons against innocent citizens in the marshlands in order to annihilate them. Our sources in the area said that the tyrant recently deployed men from his unjust security forces among citizens in areas close to (Khawr Abu-Jarjir). He instructed his men to wear Iraqi attire and come forward to speak to any international committee

that might be sent to the area to investigate Saddam's crimes against citizens in the marshlands.

Meanwhile, units of the bloody regime detained scores of (Khawr Abu-Jarjir) men and transferred them to remote and unknown areas for fear they will testify to the international committees. Moreover, [words indistinct] all means to cover up the Crusader 'Aflaqite regime's crime against the deprived children, women, and elderly people in the marshlands.

Health Ministry Reports Deaths Due to Embargo

JN1011190893 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 10, INA—A recent report by the Ministry of Health has pointed out that fatalities among Iraqi people over the past month of October have risen sharply because of acute shortages of food and medicine emanating from the ongoing three-year-old trade sanctions imposed on the country.

The report indicated that some 5,071 Iraqi people have died over the said period because of the continuation of the unjust economic embargo that deprived the Iraqi people of good and medicine.

According to the report, some 3,760 children under the age of five perished because of diarrhoea, malnutrition and pneumonia, while some 1,311 people over the age of 50 died because of diabetes, hypertension and malignant tumours.

The ministry's report noted that during October 1989, a year before the imposition of sanctions, the number of sanctions, the number of children struck by malnutrition-related diseases was 73, whereas the number of children fatalities over the same period in 1993 reached some 1,617 scoring an almost a 2115 [as received] per cent increase.

Moreover, the report showed that diarrhoea has claimed the lives of 106 children under the age of five over the month of October 1989 in comparison with some 1,316 deaths recorded during the same period in 1993, that is some 1141.5 per cent increase.

Likewise, the number of children fatalities because of pneumonia during October 1993 recorded a sharp increase of 789 per cent, the report pointed out, indicated that the numbe' of deaths registered during October 1989 was only 93 in comparison with some 827 deaths for the same period in 1993.

As for patients who suffer from chronic diseases, the report noted that hypertension, diabetes and cancer were the main causes of the death of some 1,311 people.

According to the ministry's report, some 123 people died because of hypertension over the month of October, 1989 in comparison with 342 who died over the same period in 1993, recording an almost 178 per cent increase over 1989's figure.

In the meantime, fatalities caused by diabetes have registered a sharp rise in October 1993, said the report, noting that some 150 people have died over the month of October 1993 compared with some 65 ones for the same period in 1989, scoring an increase of 130.8 per cent over 1989's figure.

According to the report, some 819 people suffering from malignant tumours have died during October 1993 compared with some 206 ones over the same period in 1989.

The cause of the sharp rise in deaths is blamed on the inadequate radio [as received] therapy received by patients who suffer from malignant tumours as a result of shortages of medicine caused by the embargo.

According to an earlier report issued by the nuclear and radioactive therapy hospital, the hospital's departments face sharp shortages of chemical and hormone medicines.

The absence of cobalt radioactive element needed for the treatment of malignant tumours has hit plans to care for people in bad need for radio therapy.

Judging from statistics and surveys released by the Ministry of Health, the number of Iraqis who have died as a result of the post-war sanctions is more than that during the actual battle. The UN sanctions have crippled health care and shrunk food supplies.

Long range health plans to combat certain epidemics crumbled during the past three years as lack of funds and necessary medical supplies made it impossible for health officials to continue the programme.

Paper Urges Neighbors To Reestablish Commercial Ties

JN1211112093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has urged countries harmed by the blockade to join forces, break the barriers of fear, and reestablish commercial links with Iraq.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH refutes allegations the United States is making regarding aid to the states harmed by the blockade imposed on Iraq. The paper says: Recently, U.S. calls to reduce and reconsider U.S. foreign aid have begun to increase. Some representatives have also submitted a bill to the White House calling for the annulment of military and economic aid to Turkey.

The paper asserts that the damage inflicted on these countries is enormous. If some of these countries are counting on compensation from the U.S. Administration, certain European countries, and some agents in the Arabian Gulf area, then they are living under a complete illusion.

The paper adds that the United States is not interested in the rising poverty in southeast Turkey, or in the growing unemployment in that area and other Arab countries as

a result of the economic measures it took against Iraq. Nor does the United States care if regional and Arab commercial establishments had to close down, or that over 5,000 companies in Turkey, the Balqan, and Arab countries had to shut down after their commercial activity with Iraq ceased.

The paper says the Security Council, the United Nations, and the United States are ignoring the complaints of Iraq's neighboring states, because what is required is to achieve the U.S. interests within the context of the so-called new world order.

Rabin Bound for U.S.; Likud Backs Jordan Peace

TA1111060893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last night left for a 10-day visit to North America. Meanwhile, Israeli officials reportedly are continuing their efforts to arrange a summit meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Jordan's King Husayn. If not tomorrow, when Rabin is to hold talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington, then at least during the 10-day visit. Meanwhile, in the Knesset, Cabinet Minister Yosi Sarid said a very important development might take place in the very near future. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] The reports from anonymous sources continue over the efforts to arrange a meeting in the United States between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and King Husayn of Jordan. Rabin media adviser 'Oded Ben-'Ami, travelling with the prime minister, says Israel would like to see a summit and an agreement signed with Jordan.

[Ben-'Ami] Of course, we all would like to see an agreement and a meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and King Husayn as soon as possible, but fruits have to be cooked enough and ready to be eate.. before you are pulling them from the tree.

[Ze'ev] The adviser said the details of the behind-the-scenes activities are speculation by the media, but just hours before Prime Minister Rabin's trip to North America, Cabinet Minister Yosi Sarid read the following statement in the Knesset, making the point that he was speaking in the name of the government. In the peace process, Minister Sarid said, additional developments may be expected in the very near future. To the best of my judgment, the developments will be very positive. Certainly, Sarid's words included a note of caution. It is clear that the government is trying to prepare the Israeli people for a dramatic development, but without sabotaging the behind-the-scenes efforts by saying too much.

Rabin's media adviser, 'Oded Ben-'Ami, said that in addition to the talk of a potential summit with King Husayn, the prime minister will impress upon U.S. President Bill Clinton the importance of a meeting between the Israeli premier and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

[Ben-'Ami] A major step, probably a dramatic step, must be taken by the Syrian leadership—that is to say, President al-Asad—something like what the late President al-Sadat did in 1977. That is a step to show both the Syrian people and the Israeli people that Syria means peace, Syria means business, that Syria is sincere to discuss peace and to take measures in order to create peace and to create relations between the two peoples.

[Ze'ev] Minister Sarid's comments in the Knesset came in response to a motion for the agenda by opposition Likud Knesset Member Mikha'el Eytan. Eytan accused Prime Minister Rabin of going beyond the mandate granted by the voters. But Sarid, sent by the government to respond, not only disagreed, but said the government had not, in his words, even reached the limits of the mandate. Sarid, noting that the Labor party platform supports territorial compromise, said this government has a mandate to make territorial concessions. [end recording]

The chairman of the Likud caucus in the Knesset, Moshe Qatzav, says he supports the government's moves towards peace with Jordan. Knesset Member [MK] Qatzav told Qol Yisra'el the Declaration of Principles between the two countries as published in the press is totally acceptable to him. Tzomet MK Alex Goldfarb says that he too supports the agreement with Jordan.

A Qol Yisra'el reporter says King Husayn has relayed a message to both Washington and Jerusalem that he will inform them during the coming days whether he intends to meet with Prime Minister Rabin in the United States. The king says he needs more time to make the decision.

Paper: Rabin Needed for Clinton Foreign Policy Coup

TA1111113393 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Nov 93 p 2

[Signed editorial by Natan Gutman in Washington: "Rabin—Clinton's Hope"]

[Text] Never has a U.S. President looked so forward to a visit by an Israeli prime minister as this time. The man with the ruddy complexion who descends from the aircraft at Andrews Air Force Base today is the great white hope of Bill Clinton, who does not want to be remembered as this century's foreign policy failure. With the media calling for Secretary of State Warren Christopher to be fired, only Yitzhaq Rabin can repeat for the Clinton administration the good time they had on the South Lawn on 13 September.

Bill Clinton plans to make every effort to see that his guest is pleased with his visit to the White House, therefore he might even compensate Rabin for the reduction in loan guarantees and even fund the costs of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

But at the end of the day, Rabin will have to prove to the Americans that he is worth the effort being invested in him, that he can hand the U.S. President what he really needs right now: another White House ceremony. The effort to position Rabin and Husayn on the lawn was a nice idea, but until the Jordanian monarch decides if and when to come, Clinton's and Christopher's popularity will take a nose dive. Even the progress being made in the talks with the PLO on the implementation of autonomy in Gaza and Jericho is far from providing the U.S. Administration with the foreign policy victory so necessary to make the public forget the flops in Somalia and Haiti.

Therefore, after four hours at the White House, Yitzhaq Rabin will not have much choice but to rummage through his papers, clear his throat, and make some commitment to Clinton about peace with Syria. It does not require a great deal, only a sentence that sounds like a commitment to enter into serious talks with al-Asad within three to six months. Clinton will be happy, and when the Americans are happy, Israelis can also sleep peacefully.

Normalization With Jordan Said To Start Before Accord

TA1111114893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Nov 93 p A2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] Jordan and Israel will begin implementing normalization steps, including the limited opening of borders, even before a formal peace agreement is signed. This was reported by political elements in Jerusalem last night.

The steps include practical cooperation in launching activities agreed on in the multilateral talks, such as "an engineering study" of an Amman-Jericho-Jerusalem highway. In addition, the two countries will begin de facto implementation of their bilateral banking agreements, which were finalized in negotiations conducted by Assistant Cabinet Secretary Arye Zohar in Washington last week.

[A report on page 5 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew by economic correspondent Sever Plotzker adds, citing Bank of Israel Governor Frenkel: "'Very significant progress' was achieved in talks between Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel and the Jordanian Central Bank vice president. The negotiations, which aimed to conceptualize the cooperation between the two central banks in areas pertaining to the ties between the two countries' capital and financial markets and their ties with the future Palestinian economy, were held on the sidelines of the multilateral economic conference in Copenhagen at the beginning of this week."]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is convinced that another achievement he will be able to reveal within a few weeks is that of 3 November. This achievement, which he first flaunted on an Israel Television newsreel last week, is a five-page document—termed a non-paper [preceding word in English] in diplomatic lingo—detailing the principles of the Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement.

Peres believes that these weeks will allow King Husayn to positively decide to sign a peace treaty with Israel that would include embassies and open borders.

Other administration elements are less definite and positive than Peres that Husayn will indeed decide to make a bold move. Peres, however, must have been affected by Husayn's tone as he discussed two matters during their 2 November meeting: First, Husayn's remarks concerning his approaching demise; and second, the king's determination not to lag behind Syria any longer. Political elements in Jerusalem said that for the first time, Husayn referred to his brother, Crown Prince Hasan, as his successor. He told Peres that Jordan would not lag behind. [passage omitted]

Sarid: Peace To Require Unprecedented Compromise

TA1111212093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Minister Yosi Sarid said that the government would soon take the most important decisions in the history of Zionism. He asserted that peace would require compromises that Israel had not yet begun to make.

Minister Sarid warned that the government might find itself besieged, promising that Meretz would stand at its side because the future of peace was in the balance. We will not deal with the importation of meat, Sarid said, and we will not even keep our commitment regarding the operation of bus lines on Shabbat [alluding to Meretz election campaign promises on the separation of religion and state].

Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Minister Sarid was talking at a joint convention for the three councils forming Meretz in Shefayim.

Rabin Sees No Need To Retain 'Imanu'el, Ari'el

TA1211053593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] The prime minister has pointed out that Israel will seek to retain the Jordan Rift Valley and the mountain ridge settlements even in a permanent settlement. He added, however: Who needs 'Imanu'el and Ari'el? The prime minister made these remarks in a meeting with rabbis and pro-right-wing Jewish leaders in New York.

Referring to his meeting with Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlement leaders, the prime minister said he had invited them all, but only three showed up while the rest decided to be difficult, in his words. He wondered how he was expected to hold a dialogue with the settlers in such conditions.

Beilin: Settlers Must Consider Living Under Arab Rule

TA1111082293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rabin says during the interim period of Palestinian self-rule, Israel will be solely responsible for security of communities in the Jordan Rift Valley and the northern Dead Sea regions. Rabin last night met with leaders of kibbutzim from these areas. Discussions focused on investment in the area and how a peace agreement with Jordan would affect the kibbutzim. Also at the meeting were a number of Knesset members. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 11 November in a page A2 report by Yosi Torpstein adds that Rabin promised the settlers' representatives "that he would make sure that the government ministries and the Jewish Agency would permit building and expansion of their settlements, including the establishment of hotels in the northern Dead Sea. He also promised them 'security contiguity' along the Jordan River in the form of a security strip, but noted that he could not promise territorial contiguity between all the settlements in the Jordan Rift Valley." The prime minister also promised that "the settlements in the Jordan Rift Valley and northern Dead Sea would remain in place, at least during the self-rule period."]

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin met with Jewish residents of the Golan Heights, Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. He told them that they can no longer consider their localities as security settlements even though the government will continue to be responsible for protecting them. In response to a question, the deputy foreign minister said that in the final stage of an agreement, residents must take into account the possibility of living under Arab rule.

Kibbutz members affiliated to the left-wing MAPAM [United Workers Party] have been advised to prepare for a possible withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The letter, addressed to the members of Kibbutz Geshur and Nator offered a number of alternatives should the communities have to evacuate. Kibbutz Ha'artzi suggested they either move elsewhere as a group of individuals or set up other types of settlements. The kibbutz movement secretariat said it decided to put the position in writing to clear up some of the current confusion.

Rabin Urged To Limit Settlers' Movement in Territories

TA1111145693 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Nov 93 p 9

[Commentary by Olek Netzer: "Not Like Home"]

[Text] Even if the impact of newspaper articles is just an illusion, I would like to reiterate—with more urgency this time—my suggestion that Israelis should be prohibited from moving freely, without coordination with the Army and without military escort, in the territories. Rabin is meanwhile pursuing his predecessor's policy allowing Israeli citizens in the territories freedom to move there as if they were inside Israeli borders. I assume this is the result of the anxiety inflicted on him and his party by the settlers and their supporters. The settlers express their gratitude for this freedom with violent demonstrations, attacks on territories residents, and rioting.

Perhaps their conduct will convince the prime minister that the policy toward them has to change. Because Rabin still adheres to the Likud policy, which treated Jews in the territories as if they were living in Israel and were entitled to full freedom and all the rights enjoyed by citizens of a free democratic country. He has not decided as yet to treat them as civilians on military territory, civilians who can be curbed when military and defense needs so require.

My statement is neither exaggerated nor sweeping: While amended regulations would not have prevented the murder of the two reservists who guarded the Neve Deqalim settlement in Gaza, it would have certainly prevented the murder of civilians. All Rabin had to do was ban the free movement of Israeli civilians on West Bank and Gaza roads.

Rabin does not need to be reminded that the territories are a military area, controlled by the military, subject to military law, outside the country's legal boundaries. The decision to permit civilians to freely roam these territories, to make pleasure trips, to buy and sell, to feel as if they are at home, and to make themselves comfortable is purely political. Therefore, the responsibility lies with those who made this decision.

For the Likud, the decision was ideologically justifiable: The territories were part of their country; the right to live and be free there, as they would be in Tel Aviv, was for them a symbol. Their slogan was: "It is inconceivable" that a Jew should be unable to buy eggs throughout his homeland. Each civilian Jewish victim in the territories was a victim sacrificed on the altar of that ideology. And from their viewpoint, the policy was politically justifiable: It showed who the proprietors were, and it erased the borderline between Israel and the territories—and not on maps only; it was their design to erase it in practical terms until it was erased in the national consciousness.

The approach which helped the annexationist policies is now working against Rabin's chances of departing from them. The endorsement of the agreement with the other nation living in this country requires renewed awareness of borders and renewed acknowledgement that there is a difference between the rights people have on the territory of the sovereign State of Israel and their rights in territories subject to military rule, especially in the midst of a war against that rule. For that reason, this government bears a particularly heavy responsibility for the lives of Israelis in the territories: According to this government's creed, their death is unjustified. They are unnecessary victims.

It lies in Rabin's and the peace supporters' interest to prevent friction between Jews and Arabs in the territories. The victory of the Rabin-led camp requires civilians to stop viewing the territories as a part of their own country, while personal safety considerations demand that settlers should stop "hanging around" everywhere, as Rabin once said.

Jew Stabbed, Slightly Injured; Arab Shot in Gaza

TA1211071393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Nisim Bar'on, an Ashqelon employer, was stabbed and slightly injured near the Erez checkpoint as

he came to pick up his Gaza workers this morning. The perpetrator, an Islamic Jihad terrorist, was captured by policemen and soldiers. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that an Islamic Jihad pamphlet was found in the terrorist's possession. The slightly injured Israeli employer was evacuated to the Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad adds that Bar'on's injuries were in his back and chest.

In another incident, an Arab resident was shot by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in the abdomen as he was attempting to penetrate into Israeli territory through the Gaza Strip fence near Nahal 'Oz. He did not heed the soldiers' warning calls.

TV Crew Detained, Released by Jordanians at Bridge

TA1111082593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] An Israel Television crew detained this morning by Jordanian soldiers on the Allenby Bridge have been released and are now being questioned at the Jericho police station. The crew, which included correspondent Yisra'el Segal, came to the bridge to prepare a report for Friday's [12 November] television newsreel. When they crossed the half-way mark, they were detained by the Jordanians. The crew was freed after a short time and was permitted to return to the Israeli side.

Airlines Signs Accords With Jordan, Syria, Lebanon

TA1111080293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Arqia Airlines has signed agreements with travel agents in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, and is ready to fly to these countries as soon as Israel signs peace treaties with them.

Yisra'el Borowitz, director of the Tel Aviv-based airlines, told reporter No'omi Segal flights to Amman, Damascus, Beirut, and al-'Aqabah could begin 24 hours after the airlines receives government permission to do so. [passage omitted]

Israeli Newspaper Accused of Sending Spy to Iran

TA1011164593 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Nov 93 pp 1, 13

[Excerpt] The Iranian newspaper KEYHAN has accused YEDI'OT AHARONOT of "infiltrating an Israeli spy into Iran," and the French Government of "cooperating with and aiding the Israeli spy."

The accusation was published yesterday, simultaneously with the hand grenade attack on the French Embassy building and the Air France offices in Tehran.

The "spy," allegedly sent to Iran by YEDI'OT AHARONOT and the French Government, is none other than Bo'az Bismut, our correspondent in Paris.

Bismut, who was born in Israel and holds a French passport, visited Iran several weeks ago. [passage omitted]

Spain's Juan Carlos Concludes Official Visit

Addresses Knesset Special Session

TA0911205593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] The Knesset convened in special session this afternoon in honor of Spain's King Juan Carlos. David Ze'ev reports:

In a festive Knesset gathering, Spanish King Juan Carlos expressed the hope that the progress reached so far with Jordan will be mirrored in other similar steps forward in the negotiations with Syria and Lebanon. At the same time, the monarch called for confidence-building measures based on respect for human rights and avoiding an action which could trigger the violent reaction of radical sectors. In this way, the king said, an atmosphere of tolerance and dialogue could be created in which the future can be confronted peacefully. In referring to the past, King Juan Carlos told the Knesset plenum the history of our two peoples has seen brilliant times, trying times, and times of incomprehension and disarrangement. Nevertheless, the future must be viewed with optimism and hope lit by recent experiences.

The Israeli speakers emphasized the 500-year link between the expulsion of the Jews from Spain and the current visit by the Spanish king to the Jewish homeland. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the history of Spanish Jewry has been both sad and wonderful. The expulsion of the Jews will not be forgotten but neither will the Golden Age of Spanish Jewry. And referring to Spain's traditionally close ties with the Arab world, the premier said: We see you as the bridge to our Arab neighbors. The reference to the Madrid peace conference two years ago was made a number of times by all the speakers.

Opposition Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu also addressed the plenum. He said the Israeli people, like the Spanish, had regained control over its homeland and fought off invaders. Netanyahu said Israel is still seeking true peace, peace and security. And yes, it was a special Knesset session. Applause is normally not permitted in the Knesset plenum. The House Committee had to give its endorsement to allow those in attendance to do so in this session. But, in contrast, Likud Knesset Member [MK] Mikha'el Eytan criticized King Carlos for not specifically referring to the expulsion of the Jews from Spain. MK Eytan said the king should have asked the Jewish people for forgiveness.

[Jerusalem Israel Television in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 9 November adds: "The foreign ministers of Israel and Spain tonight signed six cooperation agreements in the business part of the Spanish monarchs' visit to Israel, thereby tightening relations between the two states, which were established only seven years ago." The report that in

his meeting with the Palestinian leadership, the Spanish king "promised $10 million economic aid annually."]

Agreement Signed With Spain

TA1111093793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] The farewell ceremony for the Spanish monarch has just ended at the president's residence. Our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon reports that President 'Ezer Weizman praised the guest and said such a visit gives us the feeling that Israel is not isolated. Juan Carlos said he and his wife enjoyed the visit and that he anticipates improved ties between the two states.

A cooperation agreement between the manufacturers' associations of Israel and Spain was signed today in the presence of Juan Carlos. The monarch told the ceremony that the window of opportunity for peace opened recently provides hope for a new, stable, and advanced Middle East, which requires an active private business sector. He also forecast progress in the negotiations for a new trade accord between the EC and Israel, which will be the basis for expanded trade ties between the two countries.

Our correspondent Arye Shaqed said that the agreement assures Spanish backing for the European initiative to lift the Arab boycott on Israel.

Netanyahu Sends King Husayn Message

TA1111190593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has asked the Spanish king to deliver a message to Jordan's King Husayn stating that the Likud supports a peace treaty with Jordan and is in favor of strengthening King Husayn's rule.

Our correspondent Menashe Raz has learned that in a meeting two days ago, Netanyahu asked the Spanish king to stress to the Jordanian monarch the Likud chairman's conviction that Jordan and Israel had a joint interest in preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Agriculture Minister Meets Moroccan Counterpart

TA1011164793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Nov 93 p A4

[Report by Hayim Bi'or]

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur yesterday met with Moroccan Agriculture Minister Abdelaziz Meziane in the framework of the UN Food and Agricultural Organization's conference in Rome.

At the conclusion of the meeting, which addressed means of promoting agricultural ties between the two countries, Minister Tzur invited his Moroccan counterpart to Israel. Meziane said he will gladly visit Israel in the future. He handed Tzur an invitation to visit Morocco.

Other participants at the meeting were Tzvi Alon, the Agriculture Ministry assistant director general for foreign trade, and agriculture minister's aide Eytan Broshi. The two ministers formulated the details of a plan for a second experimental agricultural farm in Morocco. The Israeli Agriculture Ministry's plan suggests that the farm should be set up in the Agadir Desert in southwest Morocco, close to the Atlantic Ocean.

The farm will deal with desert agriculture based on the limited use of saline water. The farm establishment has been delegated to Professor Shmu'el Pohoriles, special adviser to the agriculture minister, in collaboration with Ben-Gurion University. Some $5 million from American foundations have been invested in the farm to date. About half of the sum was used to purchase agricultural inputs, seeds, and seedlings from private Israeli companies.

The establishment of the first Israeli farm 50 km from Casablanca, which focuses on vegetables and desert flowers, was completed at the beginning of 1993. The Agriculture Department of the Hebrew University in Rehovot is involved in the operation of this farm, which employs local workers and supervisors and is run by Israelis.

Israeli-Moroccan ties in the sphere of agriculture have developed over the past two years. An Agritech exhibit, which displayed farming technologies in Tel Aviv six months ago, was visited by dozens of buyers from that country, including Moroccan Administration representatives.

In parallel, dozens of Israeli farming experts visited Morocco as advisers in the operation of both farms. In addition, training courses were held for Moroccan agricultural firms. Hazera' Company, which manufactures and markets uncommon vegetable seeds, has recently increased its operation in Morocco.

King Denies Summit Planned With Rabin, Clinton

JN1111183793 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that a peace treaty will be signed with Israel eventually, but noted that there are scores of pressing questions that remain unresolved, such as the Jordanian territory occupied in 1967 and the subsequent occupation of other territory. He said full Jordanian sovereignty over these territories must be returned. There is also the question of water, as well as other thorny and complicated issues that should be addressed before reaching the final stage, which we hope will not be far off. Talking about the final stage is premature at present, he said.

His majesty's remarks came in an interview with Radio L'Orient in Paris today. Answering a question about a rumored trilateral meeting among his majesty, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and the Israeli prime minister next Friday, his majesty said: I believe that the Israeli prime minister will be on a scheduled visit to Washington, while I will be in my country to celebrate, along with the members of my family and people, my 58th birthday. This makes it impossible for me to be in two places at the same time.

His majesty explained the Jordanian position on the obstacles in the way of reaching basic agreements on pending issues between the two sides. He said: I do not think there are reasons to prevent this if we manage to address the questions of water and the occupied Jordanian territory, which totals more than 300 km and extends from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of 'Aqabah. His majesty said that reaching the objective of a signed peace treaty is a long and arduous process, noting that great efforts must be exerted to achieve this objective eventually.

His majesty added that progress on the Syrian-Israeli track is needed. The same goes for the Lebanese-Israeli track. He said that Jordan will not sign a [separate] peace treaty with Israel because it is committed to a comprehensive solution. Jordan, however, is pursuing the Jordanian-Israeli agenda and the thorny, pending issues that need a solution.

Regarding holy Jerusalem and the holy places, his Majesty King Husayn said: It is my hope, and the hope of all Arabs, that peace prevails in Jerusalem. Sovereignty over the city is for God, not for anyone else. I hope that it will be a symbol of meeting among the faithful children of Abraham, may peace be upon him, and that peace will prevail among them, so that it will reflect positively on the region and the world.

Responding to a question on the recent parliamentary elections, his majesty said: I have been very satisfied with the results of these elections. The children of the one great Jordanian family from all origins have played their role in the best way possible, and they have neither let themselves nor me down.

In response to a question on whether the results of the parliamentary elections can serve as referendum on the peace process, his majesty said: The peace process started in the era of the former House of Representatives. At a general national conference, it was approved to go the Madrid peace conference. Therefore, the new House of Representatives must exercise its powers and responsibilities and join the government in drawing the features of the next phase. His majesty said the holding of the elections was a new step on the path of democracy.

On the participation of Jordanians of Palestinian origin in the recent parliamentary elections, and the extent of the influence of that participation on the demand for Palestinian refugees' rights to repatriation, compensation, or both, his majesty said: This does not weaken the right of the kinsfolk and brothers if they wish to be given the chance to return, be compensated, or both. However, the many years that have elapsed and our circumstances necessitate that we hold the parliamentary elections so as to continue the building of Jordan and the consolidation of democracy. He said that this does not mean that the Palestinian individual—whether he is in Jordan or in any other state—has lost his right to demand his rights.

His majesty recalled Jordan's efforts since the disaster that befell the Arab nation in 1967 and its negative consequences on our country, which has endured a huge burden as a result. His majesty recalled what took place during his meeting with the Egyptian leadership after the cessation of hostilities and the agreement at that time to do whatever could be done to save the territory. He said: We left no stone unturned to reach a situation that enables the Palestinians to restore their rights over their national soil. The commitment between Jordan and Egypt then was that no separate peace treaty would be concluded with Israel.

Hasan Denies Imminent Peace Pact With Israel

JN1111123793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1105 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] In Amman, and in an interview with our radio, Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan today denied the Israeli reports on the imminent conclusion of a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan and on the initialing of a draft peace agreement with the Israeli foreign minister.

The Jordanian crown prince explained that he knows nothing about such reports.

Crown Prince on Peace, Elections, Arab Ties

JN1111191593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1728 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Interview with Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan by Randah Habib in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Habib] Your Royal Highness: With regard to the composition of the new House of Representatives, do you believe that the relationship between the executive

authority and this House will be smoother than the one that prevailed between this authority and the previous House of Representatives, particularly with respect to the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks?

[Hasan] Each and every political situation has its own specifics. Speaking of the circumstances we have experienced since 1989, including the Gulf crisis and war, I believe that it was clear that the Jordanian people were generally agreed on the need to safeguard stability in Jordan. They appreciated the (?difficulty) as well as the critical and sensitive nature of this task. The experience of the previous House of Representatives had its own specific circumstances under which it operated. In the same vein, the current House of Representatives, given the elections held yesterday, also has its own aspirations. The fact that more than 50 independents have won seats at this House shows that this House will pursue a clearly objective course. It is our strong hope that this objective and rational course will aid Jordan's stability, particularly since the specific circumstances we are experiencing at present require a great deal of accuracy in handling the content of the big ideas that are being promoted in this region, such as stability, peace, and building a future for the homeland.

[Habib] Do you think that the composition of the new House, which includes a majority of moderates, as you have stated, reflects a popular referendum in favor of a peaceful solution?

[Hasan] This House is the product of the elections held on the basis of the one-person, one-vote formula. Hence, these elections underscored the concerns of citizens in their regions and cities, and shunned major political slogans. As a matter of fact, the population's response to the repeated appeals made by His Majesty King Husayn in this regard was clear. In these appeals, the king said that we have to plan for ourselves, for our present and future, and that we have to shoulder our responsibilities in the face of international challenges, foremost among which is how to aid the Palestinian policy, particularly in the aftermath of the signing of the declaration of principles.

[Habib] Your Royal Highness: There have been increasing statements by Israeli officials on the imminent conclusion of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. The latest statement in this regard said that you have initialed a draft peace agreement with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. How true are these statements? Do you expect the conclusion of a peace treaty soon?

[Hasan] I have no information about such reports at all. When we speak of the future and of the course of peace, I would like to reiterate Jordanian constants in this regard, in terms of underscoring a comprehensive solution. Furthermore, we emphasize that content is a great deal more important than the slogans we hear here and there. When we speak of the 1948 refugees, we evoke the right of return and compensation. When we speak of the issue of trading land for peace, of ensuring the liberation of territories in exchange for peace, I believe that we show that we have a basic common denominator with our fraternal Arabs. I would like to reiterate that this principled position will not be undermined by frequent statements about the pace of moves toward peace. I would like to seize this opportunity and reiterate that the recent elections are a topical issue in Jordan. They are being debated by the Jordanian community, by Husayn's close-knit family. These news reports will not undermine the importance of this great domestic and international event.

[Habib] In your opinion, what are the obstacles to the achievement of a breakthrough on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks? What can be done to achieve a breakthrough on these two tracks?

[Hasan] This is a Syrian, Lebanese, Israeli, and U.S. concern. Naturally, the conference cosponsors; namely, the United States and Russia, are interested in returning to the negotiating table in Washington. I believe that when this takes place, the picture will be clearer.

[Habib] What is your view on a peaceful settlement with Israel? What are Jordan's priorities regarding the bilateral negotiations agenda signed in September?

[Hasan] Regarding the agenda, this is a comprehensive index of all topics awaiting both our due attention and convincing positions on the part of the governments concerned. There will be no peace in this region unless we convince the public opinion and the ordinary citizens that there will be tangible gains. We must discuss the economic, social, and cultural package on the one hand, and the resources, led by water, on the other, and also we must talk about cultural and religious rights. I believe that the list is long and requires intensive work in the coming months.

[Habib] What is your assessment of Jordanian-Palestinian relations following Amman's full support for the self-rule agreement?

[Hasan] I believe our full political support requires a mechanism. When we, for example, talk about an economic Palestinian-Jordanian agreement, we would await endorsement of the draft agreement concluded through negotiations with the Palestinian brothers. I believe the funding conference held in Washington has practically shown that promoting the peace prospects in the region, with its economic and social dimensions as part of a political framework, basically means that the parties directly concerned with preserving the Jordanian-Palestinian life, with its one lung here and the other across the River [Jordan], must promote this mechanism soon. This is because we are running short of time.

[Habib] Regarding cooperation between Jordan and the Palestinian entity, what are you are trying to avoid in drawing future relations with this entity, particularly in light of Israel's attempts to participate in the regional arrangements?

[Hasan] As His majesty King Husayn said on several occasions, we are building this relationship from the very roots. We will not begin with dreams and great images,

but we will build one brick after another. We will also discuss trade, tariffs, investment, the relationship across the bridges, education, legislation pertaining to the civil administration, and the orderly transfer of authorities in order to establish this independent Arab entity, God willing, on the Palestinian national soil. This requires patience. One basic thing to avoid would be a hasty circumvention of any of these important points. Others would be the stumbling or stoppage, God forbid, in our continued purposeful endeavors, noting that the world is interested in finding a just settlement in this region soon.

[Habib] What about Jordan's relations with the Arab states, particularly the Gulf states?

[Hasan] We emphasize, just as we emphasized to the Arab news agencies that were invited to attend the elections, our great concern about restoring these relations based on an understanding of common issues, which, consequently, will lead to reaching understanding among ourselves in order to resolve the major issues—pan-Arab security, food security, and issues of integration among the region's states, integration that refutes the concept that this Arab region lacks identity. I believe that all world regions have clear identities, and this region has a right to [enjoy its identity]. There is a pressing need for the Arabs to meet soon to settle their differences and to build the future with our hands, God willing.

[Habib] Your highness, how do the Arab states view democracy in Jordan?

[Hasan] Democracy in Jordan is not a prescription for anyone. It is neither pan-Arab nor governed by creeds. It is a Jordanian example that we hope will gain further success, especially since participation in decisionmaking in Jordan is a primary issue. When we speak about democracy, we speak about respecting others' opinions and the others' experiments within the regional interaction and integration.

Prince Hasan Comments on Democracy, Elections

JN1011160593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said that the Jordanian democratic experience is not a missionary campaign that can be exported and used to pressure others. Jordan respects the peculiarities of its brothers and their options, which conform to their special circumstances. Democracy is not a comprehensive ideological concept, he added.

At the Royal Hashemite Court today, he received the directors of Arab news agencies who are visiting Jordan to become acquainted with the course of parliamentary elections. His highness noted that holding the Jordanian parliamentary elections on time reflects the wisdom of the leader, His Majesty King Husayn. It emphasizes both the Jordanian national identity and sovereignty apart from pressures and surrounding circumstances.

His highness explained that the parliamentary elections came in response to the Jordanian situation following the decision to disengage administrative and legal ties with the West Bank in 1988. This decision resulted in Jordan relinquishing its sovereignty over the West Bank to the Palestinian brothers and helping these brothers achieve their national independence and remove the Israeli occupation.

Discussing the general atmosphere surrounding the parliamentary elections, his highness said it was a stable and optimistic atmosphere that expressed the Jordanians' courage and response to his majesty the king's frank call to participate in elections and cast their votes. The overwhelming majority of candidates were independent ones, he added.

His highness noted that His Majesty King Husayn, as a protector of the three authorities and guarantor of wisdom, has proceeded with achieving democracy, reaffirming its controls, and defining the powers of each authority.

Prime Minister Denies Husayn-Peres Meeting

PM1011095093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Nov 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Al-Majali Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Egyptian-Jordanian Summit To Be Held Very Soon"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has confirmed in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Jordanian-Egyptian summit will be held very soon, and that King Husayn of Jordan recently received an invitation from his brother President Husni Mubarak to visit Cairo.

Dr. al-Majali, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT while casting his vote in al-Yarut, his birthplace (120 km south of Amman), denied recent media reports about the holding of a meeting between King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

On the tripartite summit meeting of the Jordanian monarch, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington, Dr. al-Majali said that "we in Jordan have not received any invitation of that kind. If we receive an invitation, it will be considered in the light of the potential benefit for Jordan and the Arab nation." He also said that "Jordan will not conceal its talks with Israel; it always declares them. Proof of this is the meeting held between Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan and the Israeli foreign minister in Washington. We have nothing to hide, nor do we believe in working secretly."

Al-Majali on Domestic, Foreign Policies

NC1211085893 London MBC Television in Arabic 1835 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Interview with Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali by Tawfiq Gazoulite during the "Face-to-Face" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Gazoulite] Mr. Prime Minister, how do you view the formation of the next Jordanian government?

[Al-Majali] There is a mistaken impression among many people at home and abroad that the present government, which is supervising the elections, is a transitional government that should resign when a new parliament is elected. This is completely wrong; such a thing does not exist either in the Constitution or in the law. However, it will be up to his majesty the king to change the government if he desires or change some members in it. Therefore, when the new parliament is elected and convenes, a speech from the throne will be delivered in parliament by his majesty the king, who is the head of the executive authority. According to this speech, the government will ask parliament for a vote of confidence. If it receives this vote of confidence, it will continue in office. Otherwise, it will resign and his majesty the king will bring in another government.

[Gazoulite] In light of political developments in the Middle East, there was a desire not to hold the legislative elections on schedule, but later that position changed. What was the reason for this change?

[Al-Majali] The decision to sign the agreement and the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel came as a surprise to many people, especially as there was a clause in the agreement regarding the formation of a quadripartite Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli- Egyptian committee to consider ways to enable the brother Palestinian refugees of 1967 to return home. This caused confusion among the people and they could not understand it. Some from the leftist and rightist parties contacted the Jordanian leadership and asked for a postponement of the elections until this point became clear. His majesty the king, as head of state, always senses the feeling among the people. He sensed that some wanted the elections postponed while others were against any postponement. He weighed the two alternatives, and after consulting the government he decided that the elections should take place on schedule.

[Gazoulite] How can Jordan ensure the loyalty of some political parties that have recently been established and that actually work in favor of other Arab political parties? How can you ensure the loyalty of these parties to Jordan?

[Al-Majali] I must tell you that democracy in Jordan did not begin four years ago. It did not begin with the parties law. Democracy has been in existence for a long time. But the leaders, funds, or policies of most of the parties that tried to operate in Jordan in the past came from abroad, and this was against the Constitution. The primary goal of most of these parties was to change the entire regime in the country. Therefore, they were banned. No application submitted by a Jordanian group to establish a purely Jordanian party whose loyalty is to the country was rejected. But now the parties law has been issued. This came following the charter that encompassed all the political segments in the country. The law passed through the previous parliament included all shades of political opinion. The parties law has become clear. The law clearly stipulated that the regulations and philosophy of every party should manifest loyalty first and foremost to Jordan. The law prohibits parties from receiving funds or policies from abroad. When at any time the state feels or has proof that a party maintains foreign contacts, receives foreign funds, and its policy is directed from abroad, legal measures will be taken against it according to the law that was legislated by all the political groups in Jordan.

[Gazoulite] Some political circles in Jordan maintain that the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood adopts political and economic positions—mainly on the peace track between Jordan and Israel and the Jordanian economic reform policy—that basically contradict the general policy of the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, and the present government.

[Al-Majali] Some people misunderstand the economic reform that is taking place in Jordan. Like any other state, Jordan has always had a budget and has always tried to balance the revenue with the expenditures. There was a time when Jordan faced major security and economic difficulties. The Arab world, of course, stood by it, believing that Jordan's responsibility and position impose such difficulties on it. They extended aid to it. This aid ceased at a certain time. Debts bigger and beyond Jordan's capability were incurred because of its geographical and political position that necessitated such expenditures. Naturally, when the creditors demand their money or when you want to borrow money, you need a certificate to confirm that you can repay the debt. This is just the same as when you go to the Ministry of Education and ask for a secondary school certificate. You must prove to the ministry that you took the exams and passed. The ministry then gives you the certificate. If you are not in need of the certificate, you will not go to the Ministry of Education. The same goes for the World Bank and the IMF. If a country does not need a certificate to prove its ability to repay a debt, it will not ask for one. But if it needs such a certificate, it must implement measures that will prove its ability to repay the debt. This is what led to economic reforms. Many brothers think that the economic reform program was imposed by the IMF or that this is an imperialist dictate designed to humiliate the country. This is not a humiliation issue. When you ask the Education Ministry for a certificate, it is not humiliating to you to take an exam to prove that you can succeed. There is no humiliation in this matter. Therefore, what has been said is incorrect.

The other issue pertains to peace. Many people are mixing things up. We are Jordanians, Arabs, and Muslims. These are connected, but cannot be stacked on top of each other. Talking of peace, I do not believe that a Jordanian citizen, if he sees his occupied land returned, his right for water restored, if the refugee problem is resolved—this is the biggest problem in Jordan; Jordan has the highest ratio of refugees in the world—if there is [a pledge of] non-aggression against him, and any thinking of a surrogate homeland ended...[pauses] Is there any Jordanian who would oppose the return of his land, the return of his water, and the solution of these issues and say: I am against peace?

The mixup occurs when one talks about others—when we talk about the Palestinian issue. Some Jordanians view the Palestinian issue and mix it up. But we all admit that the entire Arab world and the Palestinians, too, have insisted that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We in Jordan also have agreed to this. We also added that we will not impose any mandate over or influence Palestinian decisions. Palestinian decisions are in the hands of the Palestinian brothers and they decide what they want. Consequently, they agreed with the Israelis on mutual recognition and a declaration of principles. In my opinion, the most important thing about this declaration is the fact that Israel and the West have recognized the one Palestinian people inside and outside the land of Palestine. This is a very important. Very few people read about it or pay attention to it, and for this reason there is opposition without awareness. But there is also some opposition elements who think otherwise. We live in a free country that believes in democracy and respects the views of others.

[Gazoulite] Mr. Prime Minister, some Muslim extremists recently killed a Jordanian army soldier and wounded others in a barracks. Can we regard this as a confrontation between the Muslim extremists and the Jordanian state?

[Al-Majali] I do not believe it is a confrontation. The brothers in the Islamic Front and those you call the Islamists in Jordan do not believe in violence. Of course, all the Islamist leaders are saying that they do not want any form of violence or confrontation inside Jordan. Those who were involved came from the outside. They had their own motives. Preliminary information indicates that they were some religious fanatics who came to the borders, possibly to cross illegally. At 0500 the sentry, who did not know who they were, warned them. They opened fire on him, possibly out of fear or for some other reasons. There was an exchange of fire. Regrettably, a Jordanian soldier defending the homeland and the nation was martyred. They were also killed. We do not know what they wanted to achieve.

[Gazoulite] The Israeli media has confirmed that a meeting was held between the Jordanian monarch King Husayn and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and that a peace agreement between the Jordanian and Israeli sides is expected to be signed soon. How true is this information?

[Al-Majali] I would like to tell you this: Israel always releases what can be described as trial balloons. We, the Arabs, are distracted by these balloons and sometimes the media is distracted by these balloons. The balloons divert attention from other matters. This time period, that of the elections, is very special and critical for us. Therefore, I am not surprised. As for the meeting, when I was head of the Jordanian delegation I met and negotiated with the Jews for a long time. The head of the Israeli delegation was the secretary general of the Israeli Government. This is a rank slightly lower than that of a minister. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan also met with them. All this, really—the issue of meeting with the Israelis—is no longer a frightening issue. [chuckles] But still some people want to see it this way. Had it taken place, it would have been announced. There is no fear of such an announcement. These meetings may take place some time in the future, particularly if there were peace moves under way.

You say peace agreements. We have signed an agenda with Israel that includes all the basic issues and the documents that form the basis for the negotiations. The negotiations remain difficult and arduous. When these negotiations end—and this is included in the agenda—they will lead to a peace treaty. But the condition for this peace treaty is that all the articles in the negotiations are concluded in a way that is satisfactory to the two sides. This is the normal thing. But this has not been completed. The peace treaty will be concluded only with the return of rights to their rightful owners. This has not happened, especially the comprehensive solution. The peace objective is the first article in the Jordanian-Israeli agenda, that is the comprehensive peace between Israel and the Arab countries bordering it: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians. If this is done, then the peace treaty will be concluded.

[Gazoulite] Is Jordan still committed to a comprehensive solution on all fronts?

[Al-Majali] This is necessary. We are committed and I believe that the comprehensive solution is not only in our interest as an Arab nation but is also in the interest of Israel and the entire world. We have always said that peace cannot be a separate one with certain parties but should be a comprehensive one. The peace treaty should be a complete one between all the parties. But I also want to note that some issues might reach a solution satisfactory to the two sides during the negotiations and it would be wrong to delay the procedure for doing so. For example, we reached a mutual conviction about our legitimate right to our water during the negotiations. We could not tell them: No, don't give us back our water until all the treaties are concluded. This is illogical. Let us suppose that it is the issue of withdrawal from the occupied Jordanian territories, that we have agreed and set the date and that the withdrawal has started. Do we

tell them do not withdraw until the whole process is completed? But the peace treaty that ensures the concept of complete peace in the region should be very clear and should encompass all the fronts, the Syrian and Lebanese fronts as well as the Jordanian one and the Palestinians. Of course, there are those who are saying that the Palestinians have concluded a separate peace treaty. There is no peace treaty but an agreement on principles. Additionally, the Palestinians will be in the same position as we are in today for the next five years. Therefore, the issue is a long and difficult one and needs effort, sweat, toil, and the confidence of the people so that it can be concluded in the best possible way and the Arabs can obtain their legitimate rights.

[Gazoulite] How do you view relations with Israel and the Palestinian self-rule area in the future?

[Al-Majali] This is still a subject of negotiations. The brother Palestinians will determine their fate in the final phase. They will decide whether they want to establish an independent state and to be linked with another state, especially Jordan. We will wait and see. However, it is not our right to impose our view on the Palestinian people who have not been able so far to achieve their right to self-determination. We are against this imposition. The Palestinian people must be given the chance to have their say. Afterward, Jordan will have its say. If the agreement is federal, confederal, or any formula for cooperation, we are prepared to consider it and cooperate with it. This choice must come from the bases and not just from the higher leadership.

[Gazoulite] Since we are talking about a confederation, it seems King Husayn of Jordan aspires to achieve a confederation between Jordan and Palestine. On what basis do you believe this confederation should be established?

[Al-Majali] His majesty the king spoke about this issue several times in the past. However, now that the brother Palestinians have achieved full recognition, we must wait for self- determination. If they decide on a confederation, we are prepared to consider it. You cannot impose this confederation on the people. This choice must come from the people as well as the leadership. His majesty the king expressed this clearly. The Arab nation has witnessed several unions, but most of them were among the leaders. Therefore, these unions did not survive. This time, we want this unity to survive, to stem from the willpower of the people themselves, and to be blessed by their leaders.

[Gazoulite] The Israelis also really desire to achieve confederation. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has called for a confederation. Do you believe Jordan will join a Palestinian- Israeli-Jordanian confederation in the future?

[Al-Majali] If preparation for this confederation began right now, it would take long decades to be achieved. This is a difficult process because there are cultural and economic issues. The Israeli economy is huge, bigger than the Jordanian and Palestinian economies. The Israeli economy is tenfold. You cannot establish a confederation between two distant economies overnight. This is a futile attempt. However, no one can deny that after 20 or 50 years, when all the parties concerned are convinced that peace is the basis and the people cooperate with each other, any kind of cooperation between two peoples is possible. Who imagined that Germany and France, who fought several wars including two world wars, have now formed a joint army? The political issue depends on time and necessity. When all parties are convinced that they have an interest, this will be achieved. However, I do not foresee the possibility of this being achieved now or in the near future.

[Gazoulite] Arab media speak about signs of conflict between the Jordanians and Palestinians in the self-rule area. Is this true?

[Al-Majali] There is no such thing. I have not heard about any kind of conflict between the Jordanians and Palestinians over Palestinian land. The Palestinian land is for the Palestinians. They have the rights. No Jordanians or Arabs are in dispute with them over this issue. The Palestinians have their right to Palestinian land. The Jordanians have no right to Palestinian land.

[Gazoulite] Do you agree with me if I say that questions are being raised on the fate of the Jordanians of Palestinian origin and of the capital of those Palestinians? Will this capital remain in Jordan and will the Jordanians of Palestinian origin remain in Jordan or will they move to the Palestinian land as part of the autonomy plan?

[Al-Majali] Sir, Jordan was and still is a land of democracy. Jordan has been the site of numerous waves of immigration with vast patience and open hands. Jordan has never imposed restrictions on this. Rather, it has tried very hard to help during the waves of immigration and the catastrophes inflicted on the Palestinian people. The Palestinians have been granted Jordanian citizenship, and have enjoyed full rights. Every Jordanian with citizenship who believes in this regime is entitled to enjoy the constitutional rights. Nobody can rob him of this right. The Jordanian citizen has the right to emigrate to any country and to renounce his nationality for any another nationality. The Jordanian citizen can go to the United States and obtain U.S. citizenship. He can also do the same thing in Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, or Egypt. He is free to do that. We believe in freedom, the freedom of movement. We never thought—and it is rather impermissible—of pressuring the people to leave their homeland to go other places.

We have a free economy. Any person wishing to transfer his funds to any other Arab country is allowed to do so. It is a sacred right for the Palestinian brothers who wish to return to their land and homeland. It is their legitimate right, and anything that is good for the Palestinians on their own land is good for us. This is something natural. But others believe that when autonomy is established in the occupied Palestinian territories it will be

possible to force the Palestinians to leave. This is something impossible and runs counter to humanity, ethics, and Arabism. But if the Palestinian citizen wants to return to his home in Nabulus, Jerusalem, Jericho, or anywhere else, he will be entitled to do so. He can take his money with him. This is a sacred thing. Neither I nor anyone else can oppose it.

[Gazoulite] Do you think that Jordan has a responsibility concerning the current Palestinian autonomy?

[Al-Majali] We have no right to interfere in it. But we have close relations with the Palestinian brothers in the West Bank in the economic, humanitarian, trade, education, health, and social fields. These relations have been going on for decades. Nobody can separate these relations. Therefore, we must conduct negotiations with the authority that will be established in the occupied land: the Palestinian authority, the Palestinian government, and the Palestinian entity. We will discuss all the issues with a spirit of brotherhood that will serve the two sides. We will never interfere and we do not believe in any country's interference in the affairs of other states. We do not want people to interfere in our affairs and we do not want to interfere in the affairs of others.

[Gazoulite] No doubt you would agree with me if I said that Jerusalem is the main concern of Muslims worldwide. There is the Jerusalem Committee headed by Moroccan King Hassan II, and Jerusalem is one of the priorities of Jordan's King Husayn. Meanwhile, Israeli officials on all levels state every now and then that the status of Jerusalem will not change, in other words that Jerusalem will remain an inseparable part of the state of Israel. Do you really believe that the Jerusalem problem is solvable? I want an objective answer.

[Al-Majali] An objective and very clear answer is that human brains that create problems can create solutions, too. The news media and politicians use terms without understanding their meanings, even the word "Jerusalem" and which Jerusalem the term means. There are many kinds of Jerusalem. There is the Jerusalem of 1900 and the Jerusalem of 1917, 1930, and 1948. Which one of these Jerusalems do they mean? The word Jerusalem is derived from sanctity or places of worship. The places of worship are known and obvious to the three religions. As for the new Jerusalem, known as the (?second) Jerusalem, whether it is west or east it is a political Jerusalem. Political Jerusalem is different from the religious Jerusalem that is sacred to the three religions. Thus, a political solution is possible.

If you know Jerusalem City, it includes the Shaykh Jarrah and Salwan suburbs and goes as far as Ramallah as part of a political expansion of the municipality. All these are occupied territories. Jerusalem is religiously sensitive to the three religions. His majesty the king says that it is time that leading Islamic intellectuals of the various seven sects met and unified their stand on a solution to the Jerusalem issue and also held dialogue with the Christians and Jews to devise a suitable solution satisfactory to all parties without injustice.

As for the political Jerusalem, it is a political issue. The Palestinians, as well as all the Arabs, claim it. It is an occupied land by all standards and according to all UN Security Council resolutions. This is clear and, therefore, there must be a solution for the holy places.

The Israelis frequently tell the West and say in the media that when Jordan ruled the West Bank and Jerusalem, it prevented the Israelis from reaching the Wailing Wall, a place they regard as sacred, which indicates that Jordan is not a civilized state. We reject this because the armistice agreement stipulated that Christian Arabs were allowed to visit their holy places in Nazareth and the Israelis were allowed to reach the Wailing Wall. The agreement also stipulated that the Israeli guard forces or what is called police should have access to the Hadassa Hospital buildings and the Hebrew University. But when the Israelis refused to allow Christian Arabs to visit Nazareth, this meant that they in return did not have access to the Wailing Wall. However, under a third condition, they used to come from West Jerusalem and enter Hadassa in police convoys. So it is illogical to say that Jordan is against religion in one place and allows the armed forces [words indistinct]

[Gazoulite] Mr. Prime Minister, negotiations on the Middle East problem and the prospect for a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East, including Jordan, may take a long time. However, we would like to discuss Jordan's Arab and foreign relations. As you know, the Gulf war had a negative impact on Jordan's relations with Arabs in general and on its economy. What is your objective assessment of Jordan's Arab ties?

[Al-Majali] First, I would like to say that Jordan has always maintained good relations with all our Arab brothers. Regarding the Gulf war, Jordan adopted a clear stand that regrettably was misread by its brothers, and by the West in particular, on the issue of [the Iraqi] occupation.

The Jordanian leadership, people, and Government were against the occupation but clearly demanded that the issue be resolved at the Arab level to avoid the tragedies of wars. But Jordan was not heeded; it was accused and misinterpreted to the extent that the difficulties it expected did happen. Jordan was also punished by strained relations with it in one way or another. Jordan did not believe in the occupation. Jordan has part of its territories occupied, so how could it believe in occupation? This is a clear and constant stand and we will not deviate from it. But, regrettably, many Arab brothers took a harsh stance. They had their views and their way of interpreting the matter. The region is now going through its more dangerous days. The dangers in times of peace or in the post-peace days are worse than the ones that follow a war because the people have great expectations that are difficult to attain. There is also the possibility of the establishment of a regional order. So, if we are not in agreement, reconciled, and have our hands

held together, something will be imposed on us that we will not like, as what happened once in the past. We pray to God Almighty to guide us all so that we will let things return to their normal course, clean the slate, and stand as one nation in the face of the new peace. This peace should be complete and beneficial for all. If the Arab nation stands together and settles its differences, it will be able to proceed with peace in a way that will lead to the happiness of its peoples.

[Gazoulite] We are all hoping for this, Mr. Prime Minister. There is a question that has come up recently and is basically concerned with the relationship between Jordan and the Gulf states. Has the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, made any positive steps in that direction?

[Al-Majali] You already know that all the official statements made by his majesty, his highness the crown prince, and the Jordanian Government say that Jordan is extending a clean and open hand and is opening its heart to all the brothers. There was a response from the brothers in Qatar and in the United Arab Emirates. We hope that this will also be the case with the brothers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. We hope for this and we are seeking it as honorable men, as brothers, and as one family. We are seeking it in the public interest. We believe in it and hope that it will be done. We also hope that the cloud that overshadowed this region has disappeared and that things will be back on their normal course.

[Gazoulite] God willing. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Abu-Nuwar: No Separate Solution With Israel

JN1111165693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1612 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has said that the government has made exceptional efforts to ensure fair elections and create propitious circumstances to enable the Jordanian people to exercise their constitutional right to elect their representatives to the House of Representatives. It has maintained its neutrality throughout all phases of the election process, the minister noted.

During a reception for the directors of Arab news agencies today, the minister added: The newly-elected House of Representatives reflects the choices the Jordanian people have made, as well as their desires. We in Jordan support Arab consensus. No Jordanian Government, be it the current government or any other future government, for that matter, can depart from this course, which reflects the convictions of the higher leadership and all sectors of the Jordanian people, as well.

The minister went on to say that Jordan will not pursue a separate solution with Israel. This has been its constant policy. Jordan has constantly advocated a comprehensive and just solution that would ensure regional stability and be deemed acceptable to future generations, the minister maintained.

Election Results Reflect Mutual Trust Between King, People

JN1011123993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Nov 93 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "The People's Will and Choice"]

[Text] Jordan yesterday placed another cornerstone in its democratic edifice, which has become loftier and brighter. The people lived up to the leader's expectations in terms of behavior, policy, and practice as witnessed by all those, inside and outside Jordan who watched and followed up the stages of the distinguished democratic gala.

The discipline, calm, and spontaneity which characterized election day, as well as the positive response by the sons of this one family to the king's call, is good proof of the progress Jordan has made in the field of democracy. It is also strong proof that these people enjoy a sense of awareness and civilized maturity that are unparalleled in third world countries.

Today, the 12th Parliament, in structure and form, reflects the general mood of these people. It also reaffirms the depth of mutual trust between His Majesty King Husayn and his people, who surged to the ballot boxes in a turnout that went beyond expectations and exceeded that of the previous elections four years ago.

Hence, the result of the elections is a gain for all Jordan and is qualitative addition to the democratic policy about which we have the right to boast to others. This is especially since the other unblemished stages of this battle matched the highest standards prevailing in the most deep-rooted Western democracies, and were up to the expectations of the brothers who followed up this process with great eagerness and admiration.

The results of the parliamentary elections reflect the will of the people and their free choice. They practically reaffirmed the concept of participation and entrenched deep-rooted traditions of neutrality and honesty. The results of these elections proved that democracy is a final and irreversible choice for the people of Jordan and its wise and mature leadership.

IAF Secretary General Views Election Results

JN1011172293 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1555 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Amman, 10 Nov (PETRA)—Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front [IAF], has said the Jordanian people have efficiently and responsibly played their role in choosing their candidates to the 12th House of Representatives, and that the leadership has not disappointed its nation. His Majesty King Husayn's guarantee to hold fair elections greatly encouraged the IAF and citizens to participate in the elections, both as voters and candidates. This promoted the democratic march, he noted.

In a news conference today on the results of the parliamentary elections, al-Farhan said the results brought glad tidings for this dear homeland, whose sons have experienced a democratic festival. Everyone contributed to this festival, which enhances and at the same time is another aspect of the bright image of Jordan's consultative and democratic march. This festival was a blessed step on the path of ripening and completing this march, he added.

Al-Farhan asserted that the IAF, which has weight in the new House of Representatives, extends its hand to all official and popular forces to cooperate based on the public interest and to achieve national objectives. This is because this serious phase requires everyone to avoid differences and to confront the danger facing all of us. He expressed hope that the new House will succeed in confronting the great challenges facing it, in terms of passing legislation and supervising and promoting government performance in resolving the problems of the homeland and citizens.

Al-Farhan said the victory of 16 candidates from the IAF list of 36 candidates, is a painful victory—especially in view of media reports about several IAF candidates losing—when compared to their number in the previous House. He said ,this retreat is only a media retreat because, if the figures are actually read on the ground, they will reveal that the IAF managed to penetrate constituencies not penetrated before, such as the third [Amman] constituency, the 'Ajlun constituency, and the 'arash constituency.

Al-Farhan noted that the failure of some symbols, particularly Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, the former speaker of the House of Representatives, was due to several factors. These will be assessed. Lessons will be learned from mistakes that were made. He said 'Arabiyat is a lofty national symbol and a national action symbol in Jordan, and at Arab and Islamic levels.

'Power Struggle' Cause of IAF Election Losses

JN1011113293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Nov 93 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Other than the obvious effects of introducing the one-person, one-vote electoral system on the showing of Islamists in the elections, their reduced strength in the 12th Parliament is the result of two factors: Basically a general trend among Jordanians to elect new deputies to represent them, and internal divisions and power struggle among the Islamic Action Front (IAF) itself, which is their main umbrella organization.

The front, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, fielded 36 candidates in 17 electoral districts, but managed to gain only 16 seats across the Kingdom.

While not seen as a major setback for the front, which will remain the largest single politically-organized bloc in the 12th Parliament, the result indicated a net loss for the Islamists who were largely expected to win 18-20 seats in the Lower House.

Sources and well-informed observers are quick to explain that this result does not indicate that the IAF has lost among its constituency of dedicated voters.

"They have kept a steady popular base," one observer said, citing the example of al-Zarqa' where the Brotherhood in the 1989 elections won around 24,000 votes assumed to be the Islamists' base support. In Monday's elections the three top IAF candidates got a combined vote of 25,376 votes in that city. "If one deducts the extra tribal votes which went to one of the IAF candidates (Bassam al-'Umush from the Bani-Hasan tribe) then it would be around the same number of votes as in 1989," the observer, who did not want to be identified by name, said.

But these election results are not without meaning. The IAF lost three of their most influential figures, two of whom contested the race in the al-Balqa' District. They are former House Speaker 'Abd- al-Latif 'Arabiyat, former spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood's parliamentary bloc, Ibrahim Khuraysat; and Muhammad Abu-Faris, a hawkish fundamentalist who ran in Amman Fifth District.

The front this time is also less likely to find many allies outside its own ranks in Parliament—except perhaps with the hardline leftists on the Palestinian problem. The Brotherhood's satellite influence used to be a major factor at play in the 11th Parliament. Because the previous Lower House was elected according to the bloc-voting system, the Brotherhood was able to help some Christians and independents win hotly contested seats.

These "allies" regularly avoided controversial voting sessions in the House or facilitated a majority vote for Islamists on the social agenda of the Brotherhood, including issues like the segregation of sports facilities and swimming pools as well as banning alcohol in the Kingdom.

The projections for this Parliament indicate a diminished weight for the 16 IAF deputies, and the analysts believe that several factors, have contributed to this change.

First, Jordanians paid little attention to candidates who invoked the Middle East peace process in their campaigns, preferring to cast their votes in favour of those they knew would serve them while deputies. But having chosen candidates who are known for their good connections with the government—because they could provide them with services—they produced a Parliament that is less antagonistic to government policies and in turn to its policy on the Middle East process.

The analysts maintain that this trend among voters may have contributed to the reduced number of successful IAF candidates, who contested the elections on a campaign of rejection of the peace process and who at the same time had failed to provide solutions to national problems, like the economy and unemployment.

"When most Jordanians were becoming apathetic to large political slogans and largely concerned about day-to-day survival, the Islamists were still carrying banners calling for jihad (holy war)," one analyst said.

Thus the reduced political concern over grand political issues by Jordanians, largely helped by the application of the one-person, one-vote-system, took away from the glamour of the Islamists' message which tended to address the larger than daily life concerns of the common citizen.

Second, which is actually what hurt the front most, is the power struggle between its prominent personalities, and between its moderates and hawks, which affected their campaign strategy at its inception and forced it to field more candidates than it could realistically support in the different districts, the analysts said.

Profiles of Newly Elected Parliament Members

JN1011102293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Nov 93 pp 3, 5

["Brief Profiles" of newly elected members of the 12th Lower House of Parliament]

[Text]

'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr (IAF)
First District, Amman
Born in Hatta, near Falura in occupied Palestine in 1932, obtained his B.A. in Islamic law from Damascus University and served as a teacher with the Ministry of Education until 1982 when he retired.

Hammad Abu-Jamus (al-Mustaqbal)
First District, Amman
Born in Amman. Finished school in 1958 and obtained his degree in engineering from the United Kingdom in 1961. He served in several private sector posts.

'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant (IAF)
Second District, Amman
Born in 1935, studied Islamic Sharia at al-Azhar University in Egypt where he obtained his B.A. He received his master degree in Islamic law from Pakistan.

Hamzah Mansur (IAF)
Second District, Amman
Born in al-Mansi Haifa district in occupied Palestine in 1944, finished his secondary eduction in Irbid and graduated from Huwwarah Community College and later from Beirut Arab University in 1976 in Arabic language. He obtained a masters degree eduction from the University of Jordan in 1984. He worked as a school teacher and head teacher at the Ministry of Education schools from 1965 until 1989.

Muhammad Ahmad al-Dhuwayb (Independent)
Second District, Amman
Born in al-Ta'amirah near Bethlehem in 1941, finished secondary education in Bethlehem in 1960, obtained a B.A. in arts from Beirut Arab University in 1967, and higher studies diploma at the University of Jordan 1984. He worked as a teacher for 24 years. He served as a member of the Lower House of Parliament between 1984 and 1988.

Tahir al-Masri (Independent)
Third District, Amman
Born in Nabulus, in the West Bank, in 1942, and obtained his secondary school certificate from al-Najah Secondary School. Received his B.A. from Texas University, [as published] U.S., in 1965. He served in senior government posts, including prime minister. He was a member of Parliament in 1973 and served twice as minister of foreign affairs.

'Ali Abu-al-Raghib (Independent)
Third District, Amman
Born in Amman in 1946, and obtained his B.Sc. in civil engineering from the United States in 1967. He served in several posts since 1967, including positions at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Amman Municipality. He was also president of the Contractors Association between 1986 and 1990. He served as minister of industry and trade, supply and energy and mineral resources between 1991 and 1993.

Tujan Faysal (Independent)
Third District
Born in Amman in 1948, obtained her B.A. in English from the University of Jordan in 1970, and her M.A., also from the University of Jordan, in 1990. She worked at Jordan Television as a producer and broadcaster of cultural programmes, then for the Ministry of Social Development and Nur al-Husayn Foundation. She is a columnist for SHIHAN Arabic weekly.

[Text]

Muhammad al-Hunayti (Independent)
Fourth District, Amman.
Born in Abu 'Alandah in 1934, he studied in Amman and obtained his B.A. from Baghdad University. He was most recently mayor of Abu 'Alandah.

Hammam Sa'id (IAF)
Fifth District, Amman
Born in Kafr Ra'i, West Bank, in 1944, and completed secondary school in al-Zarqa' in 1962. He received an Islamic Sharia degree from Damascus University in 1966. He was a teacher at the Islamic College in Amman until 1971. He obtained his master's degree in Hadith from al-Azhar University in 1974 and his doctorate in Hadith also from al-Azhar in 1979. He received a degree in

comparative religions from Temple University in the U.S. in 1979 and has written many books and articles on Islam.

Mifleh al-Lawzi (Independent)
Fifth District, Amman
Born in 1935, he completed his schooling until the seventh grade. he became mayor of al-Jubayhah between 1963 and 1986. He was member of the National Consultative Council in 1980.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Shakhanibah (Independent)
Sixth District, Madaba
Born in al-Judayyidah in 1950, he obtained his doctorate in medicine in Moscow in 1975. He has worked in private practice as physician.

Jamal al-Khurayshah (Independent)
Seventh District
Born in al-Muwaqqar in 1938 and served in the Armed Forces until his retirement as brigadier. He served in several military posts, including assistant to the Armed Forces inspector general. He was appointed member of the Senate and served as member of the previous Parliament, representing the central bedouins. He served as minister of state in the Tahir al-Masri government of 1991 and later in the al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir government.

Muhammad 'Addub al-Zabn (Independent)
Central Bedouins
Born in 1943. He holds a B.Sc. in medicine and held several government posts, including physician at al-Bashir Hospital and at Madaba Health Centre. He also served as minister of municipal and rural affairs and minister of health in 1989.

Ahmad al-Kawfahi (IAF)
Irbid District
Born in Irbid in 1939, obtained his B.A. in Islamic law from Damascus University and masters and doctorate degrees in Sharia from al-Azhar University. He worked as a teacher for the Ministry of Education and lecturer at al-Yarmuk University and the University of Jordan.

'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah (al-Yaqazah Party)
Irbid District
Born in al-Sarih in 1939, he holds a B.Sc. in pharmacy from the American university of Beirut. He served with the health ministry in several posts and later because minister of communications in 1976, minister of health in 1979 and mayor of Amman until 1989.

'Arif al-Batayinah (Independent)
Irbid District
Born in al-Barihah near Irbid in 1931, he was educated at Bi'r Zayt University and obtained a diploma in science from the American University of Beirut. He received a B.Sc. in medicine from London University in 1960. Since then, he worked with the Jordanian Armed Forces, and in 1980 he was appointed director of the al-Husayn Medical Centre. In 1990, he became director of the Royal Medical Services and later became minister of health in the al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir government.

Dr. Salih Irshaydat (Independent)
Irbid District
Born in Irbid in 1946, he completed his elementary school in Irbid and his secondary school in Egypt where he got a B.Sc. in engineering in 1970. In 1975 he worked as a teacher at an engineering college in Germany and obtained his doctorate in Germany in 1975. He worked for the private sector from 1975 until he assumed a ministerial post. He was minister of youth in the government of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir in 1991.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq Tubayshat (Independent)
Irbid District
Born in Irbid in 1939, he obtained his B.A. in medicine from Istanbul University. He worked for the Jordanian Armed Forces and as a general practitioner in Irbid with Irbid Municipality before he was elected as mayor of Irbid several times. He held several ministerial posts including minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment in 1991.

'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur (IAF)
Irbid District
Born in al-Sarih near Irbid in 1939, he obtained a B.A. in Islamic law from Damascus University in 1966. He worked as director of awqaf and director of preaching at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. He taught in several universities.

Nadir Abu-al-Sha'r (Independent)
Irbid District
Born in al-Hisn in 1941, he completed his schooling at al-Hisn, Ramallah and Amman. He holds a medical degree from Italian universities and served as head of the surgery section at a Princess Basmah Hospital in Irbid. He served in the 1986 Lower House of Parliament.

Bassam al-'Umush (IAF)
Al-Zarqa' District
Born in al-Zarqa' in 1954, obtained his doctorate in Islamic studies from Muhammad Bin-Sa'ud University in Saudi Arabia in 1984. He served as a teacher at Riyadh University between 1984 and 1986, as well as at the Sharia College at the University of Jordan in 1986 and as mosque preacher in al-Zarqa'.

Dhib Anis (IAF)
Al-Zarqa' District
Born in al-'Abbasiyah, near Yafo, in occupied Palestine. He worked as a mosque preacher at the Ministry of Awqaf between 1964 and 1968.

Muhammad Al Hajj (IAF)
Al-Zarqa' District
Born in Janin in 1951, finished high school in Nabulus. He obtained his B.A. at the Sharia College at the University of Jordan, his masters degree in Islamic religion from Riyadh and a doctorate from Muhammad Bin-Sa'ud University in Riyadh. He worked as a teacher in al-Zarqa' between 1975 and 1978. He was a lecturer at the Univeristy of Jordan between 1981 and 1989.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu (Independent)
Al-Zarqa' District
Born in al-Zarqa' in 1922, studied in al-Zarqa', Suwaylih and al- Salt. He graduated from al-Azhar University in 1952 and worked as a mosque preacher. He was elected to Paliament seleral times.

Bassam Haddadin (HASHD)
Al-Zarqa' District
Born in Ma'in, south of Madaba, completed his secondary education in al-Zarqa'. He was one of the leaders of the Jordanian Students Movement while studying abroad (1970-76).

Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah (IAF)
Al-Tafilah District
Born in 'Aymah in al-Tafilah governorate, he attended secondary school in Tulkarm in the West Bank and received a B.A. in management from the University of Jordan in 1975. He got his masters from the University of Southern California (USC) in 1978 and his doctorate in management from USC in 1982. He served as minister of education.

Muhammad 'Uwaydah (IAF)
Al-Balqa' District
Born in al-Falujah in 1947, he obtained a B.A. in Shari'a from the University of Jordan in 1969 and M.A. and doctorate degrees from al-Azhar University in 1973. He worked as a teacher for the Ministry of Education between 1969 and 1976. Since 1970, he worked as a professor of Shari'a at the University of Jordan.

Hashim al-Dabbas (Independent)
Al-Balqa' District
Born in al-Salt, obtained his B.A. in commerce from Cairo University and masters and doctorate degrees from the U.S. in 1963. He served as director of the Department of Statistics in 1970 and later as Ministry of Industry and Trade secretary general until 1980. He became head of the Audit Bureau.

'Abdallah al-Nusur (Independent)
Al-Balqa' District
Born in al-Salt in 1939, obtained his B.Sc. from the American University of Beirut, a masters from Wayne State University in 1965 and a doctorate in human resources planning from Sorbonne University in Paris. He served as director general of the Budget Department, director of Income Tax Department and in several ministerial posts.

Samir Qa'war (Independent)
Al-Balqa' District
Born in al-Salt in 1934, he received his masters degree in agricultural equipment design from Texas University [as published]. He worked as an engineer in Dayr 'Alla Agricultural Project and in the phosphate mines in al-Hasa. He became minister of water and irrigation in the government of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

Fawzi Tu'aymah (Independent)
Al-Balqa' District
Born in al-Fuhays in 1945, he holds a B.A. in arts from the University of Jordan and masters and doctorate degrees in psychology from the United States.

Mansur Bin-Tarif (Independent)
Al-Karak District
Born in Madaba in 1939, obtained a B.A. in agriculture in 1961 from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and an M.A. in economics in 1963 also from AUB. He served with the Agricultural Credit Corporation from 1963 until 1966, then as deputy director of the corporation until 1982. He served at the Ministry of post and communications.

Ahmad al-Kasasibah (IAF)
Al-Karak District
Born in al-Karak in 1944, he obtained a B.A. in law from Beirut Arab University and worked in the Ports Corporation and the Railway Corporation.

Jamal al-Sarayirah (Independent)
Al-Karak District
Born in al-Hashemiyah, near al-Karak in 1954, he finished his schooling in al-Karak in 1971 and obtained his B.A. from Kuwait University in 1976, he worked for ARAMCO from 1980 until 1983, and the Tapline Company until 1989. He served as minister of post and communications in the governments of Mudar Badran and al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

'Awad Khulayfat (Independent)
Ma'an District
Born in Wadi Musa in 1945, he obtained a B.A. in history from the University of Jordan in 1967, and a doctorate from London University in 1973. He worked as chairman of the University of Jordan's History Department before becoming al-Yarmuk University vice president and later Mu'tah University President and minister of youth. He became minister of higher education in the government of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir in 1991.

'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti (Independent)
Ma'an District
Born in Amman in 1949, finished school there and studied geological engineering at the American University of Beirut. He obtained a B.A. from St. Edwards University in Texas, U.S., and served in several private sector firms. He became minister of labour in the government of Mudar Badran of 1989 and in 1990.

'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi (Independent)
Al-Mafraq District
Born in Al-Mafraq in 1955, he completed his schooling in 1973, and obtained a B.A. in law in 1977. He worked as a lawyer since his graduation and became minister of labour in the government of Mudar Badran in 1989.

'Abdallah Akhu-Rushaydah (Independent)
Al-Mafraq District

Born in Rahab, near al-Mafraq in 1929, finished his secondary schooling in Amman and obtained a B.A. in law from Damascus University. He served in several administrative posts between 1965 and 1986 and became district governor at the Ministry of Interior in 1968. He served in 1978 as a member of the National Consultative Council.

Sa'd Hayil al-Surur (Independent)
Northern Bedouins
Born in 1947, he obtained his B.A. in civil engineering from Riyadh University in 1970, and worked for Amman Municipality and in several Saudi Arabian companies until 1981. He became a member of the National Consultative Council. He served as minister of water and irrigation in the Mudar Badran government of 1989 and as minister of public works and housing in the Tahir al-Masri government of 1991, and later in the 1991 government of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

Columnist Denies Making Anti-Palestinian Remarks

JN1211110793 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 13 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] The report published by the Jordanian English-language weekly THE STAR, citing the U.S. newspaper NEWSDAY under the headline "Blaming Palestinians", has drawn angry reactions from journalists and intellectuals in Jordan.

The U.S. attributes very serious statements to the well-known columnist Tariq Masarwah. In a report from Amman, which THE STAR published on 28 October, the U.S. newspaper correspondent quotes Masarwah as saying: "If the PLO wants to go its own way, without consulting Jordan, let the Palestinians leave Jordan once and for all. The West Bank has always been a burden to Jordan. So were the Palestinians. They build palaces here and we have to provide telephones and water and electricity. Let them go! An Amman of 500,000 people instead of one and a half million would be fine!"

For his part, Tariq Masarwah says what the paper has reported was cheap and ridiculous. He adds: I have not made any statement to any foreign journalist. I may have sat with some in the Jordan Intercontinental and they may have misinterpreted what I said. No one should quote half of what I said and do what some do to the Koranic verse "do not come to prayer..." [complete verse reads: Do not come to prayer in a state of intoxication]. This can give more than one interpretation to what is said.

Masarwah notes that the U.S. Embassy distributed that pamphlet. I think it is behind all this, because that paper does not circulate in Jordan, he says. Masarwah adds that there are parties that seek to harm a writer who does not like the Americans because it is illogical for anyone to call for expelling Palestinians from Jordan.

Columnist Said To Make Anti-Palestinian Statements

JN1211091493 Amman THE STAR in English 28 Oct 93 p 3

[From the "People & Politics" column: "Blaming Palestinians: A Case of Mistaken Nationalism"]

[Text] With the beginning of the final countdown for the 8 November elections, Jordanians from all walks of life are bracing themselves for one of the most unpredictable political events in the modern history of Jordan. Unpredictable because no one knows what the next Parliament will really look like now that all the usual cards have been shuffled and reshuffled. One can easily blame the political developments next door for the confusion that is spreading on the East Bank of the River Jordan. In fact, some East Jordanians are doing just that blaming Palestinians.

Newsday correspondent in the Middle East, Susan Sachs reported from Amman on Tuesday that some East Jordanians are becoming vociferous about their feelings towards the Palestinians. She quotes Mr. 'Abd al-Hadi al-Majali head of al-'Ahd Party, as saying: "All my life, I fought for their cause. We have lived the Palestinian problem since it started. My generation never had a rest; we were constantly under siege. This small country has an armed forces of 125,000 men! Maintaining it diverted us from cultural and economic development. We lost 50 years of development. This is our fate that we are next to Palestine. We lost lives, opportunities, normal life, money."

Another, AL-RA'Y columnist Mr. Tariq Masarwah, was quoted in the same story as saying. "If the PLO wants to go its own way, without consulting Jordan, let the Palestinians leave Jordan once and for all. The West Bank was always a burden to Jordan. So were the Palestinians. They build their palaces here and we have to provide telephones and water and electricity. Let them go! An Amman of 500,000 people instead of one and a half million would be fine!"

If what the writer has published was actually said, then one feels sad that such bitterness was not confined to the PLO's political leadership since many Palestinians do not agree with Mr. Yasir 'Arafat and the 13 September agreement. But there is no justification for shifting blame against the Palestinians, especially those who have lived most of their lives, as Jordanian citizens, in Jordan.

His Majesty King Husayn has made it clear more than once that national diversity, a source of strength for Jordan, should remain sacrosanct and must not be politicized.

Some observers are concerned that this election may be focused by some, even subliminally, on the issue of Palestinian and Jordanian "nationalism." Surely, preserving national unity should be the ultimate goal of all intellectuals, journalists and party leaders, who have influence over public opinion in Jordan.

Source Denies Hizballah, al-Hariri Conciliation

NC1111092793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] In response to some media reports that a reconciliation was arranged between Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Hizballah members of the Chamber of Deputies during a meeting of the parliamentary committees, a source in the Bloc for Loyalty to the Islamic Resistance has made the following clarification:

To begin with, we would like to state that no reconciliation has occurred between us and the prime minister either with or without the patronage of other parties. What happened was merely the coincidental arrival of the prime minister at the Chamber of Deputies speaker's office while we were meeting with the latter to discuss a bill about building violations.

Second, we urge the media that published such reports to maintain a patriotic standard and not try to exploit mere details with the aim of relieving the government of its responsibility for the 13 September massacre [when the Army fired on Hizballah demonstrators protesting the Palestinian-Israeli agreement] and undermining our demand for the government's resignation. Meeting this demand is the least that this government must do because of the politically motivated massacre that it perpetrated.

Hizballah Issues Statement on Martyrs Day

NC1111093393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Hizballah has issued a statement on Martyr's Day that martyrs are central to the nation's confrontation of challenges and its defense of its existence, rights, and gains.

The statement adds: Our war with the Zionist enemy, in which we have offered our best youths and leaders as sacrifices, is a sacred war that will continue. It will not lay down its arms. It is based on the rejection of the other side's satanic and hostile presence. In light of the martyrs' actions, the Gaza-Jericho agreement becomes an unjustifiable treason. All similar agreements are crimes against the nation. The martyrs' blood proves that nothing prevents the nation from clinging to its rights and sanctities.

Hizballah's statement declares: Speaking of peace with the enemy under any circumstances and by any description is not one of the nation's political or intellectual tasks. Consequently, the nation disowns such talk and deems it foreign to it.

Nasrallah on Gaza-Jericho, 'Massacre' of Marchers

NC1011130593 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Oct 93 p 12

[Interview with Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, leader of the Lebanese Hizballah, by unidentified ETTELA'AT correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [ETTELA'AT] How did the current conflict with the government begin and what is the ulterior motive behind this conflict? In your opinion, why did the Lebanese Government kill the marchers during the demonstrations opposing the Gaza-Jericho accord?

[Nasrallah] This could be attributed to the ban on marches and demonstrations without official government permission. However, I must state that the current rulers, the Lebanese Government in particular, are seeking to limit freedoms, especially freedom of expression. One example is the ban on AL-SAFIR newspaper last year. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese Government embarked on these killings to prove to the United States and Israel that it has a strong army and it can eliminate its enemies. This is similar to 'Arafat, who promised that he would eliminate the opponents of the Gaza-Jericho accord and destroy the intifadah. It was for this reason that the Lebanese Government carried out the recent bloodshed and killings. It wished to convey that it was acting on its commitments to compromise with the enemies.

[ETTELA'AT] Some say that the Hizballah could have prevented these killings. Is it true?

[Nasrallah] First, I should mention the motivation behind these demonstrations. The Hizballah and the other forces that participated in these protests studied the implications of the Gaza-Jericho accord and the dangers of the official recognition of Israel by Yasir 'Arafat on the international level. This accord will mean serious danger for Lebanon. On the domestic level, the people should be able to express their opinion. There was propaganda about the endorsement of the accord by various governments and organizations. The acceptance by some Palestinian groups made it appear that the accord had been accepted by the Palestinians, even though the accord was a historical act of treason committed by Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] When Rafiq al-Hariri was questioned about the fact that the Hizballah wanted him to be removed, he said: We are in our own place and we are similar to two parallel lines whose paths never converge and we never even see one another.

[Nasrallah] That is true. I concur, as the resistance against Israel and peace with Israel are two lines that will never meet. This is because service to the deprived, oppressed, and the impoverished strata of society on the one hand and their repression and service to Arab and Jewish companies cannot mingle. This is because the line

of popular freedom and the line of domination over oil and hegemonistic thinking are entirely dichotomized. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] So, how do you envisage coexistence with this government now that conditions have become impossible?

[Nasrallah] In my opinion, we cannot tolerate this government after what happened on the day of the demonstrations.

[ETTELA'AT] President al-Hariri has said that he will remain in power.

[Nasrallah] Yes, that is true. Many governments have remained in power despite the will of the nation to the contrary. However, how long can this continue? For one week, one month, one or two years? It would be unnatural if the Hizballah had asked the government to resign and that such an incident should occur a week later. If Rafiq al-Hariri and his government were to continue in office for a month or two after the killings, it cannot be construed as a victory for the government as logic dictates that the complete picture can only emerge over time.

In any case, the time will come when the government will fall. This is certain as the Lebanese Government has a dictatorial mentality and has adopted the policy of suppression. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Does the Hizballah have any plan that would motivate the government to resign soon?

[Nasrallah] We do have a plan but we cannot speak about it at present.

[ETTELA'AT] It has been said that you wish to remove the government under some plan in the parliament.

[Nasrallah] Yes. The correct manner would be to follow a course of political, propagandistic, parliamentary, and popular activities for the removal of the current Lebanese Government. In my opinion, the government is facing problems in all economic and commercial fields. As an example, I should state that the danger from the present government does not affect only the political and jihad forces, that is, the Hizballah. The present government poses a danger for all strata of society.

[ETTELA'AT] It is being stated that the Lebanese Government came to power because of two factors: the presence of certain local and regional conditions and the presence of various sects in Lebanon. In your opinion, is there a Christian group that is also opposed to the government?

[Nasrallah] I believe that the present circumstances are totally favorable, that is, if only the government had the courage to permit the people of all Lebanon to stage demonstrations or to hold public opinion polls on how many people support or are opposed to the government, it would not make any difference [to the government]. The government would then see how many people want the removal of the present government compared to those who want it to remain in power. It is not one specific sect or faction that desires the removal of the government but the entire population. This is because of the hunger, poverty, and tribulations that have engulfed all the people and are not restricted to any particular group. It is for this reason that I should state that the conditions are ripe and the slightest and simplest move could prove to be a catalyst to bring down the government.

[ETTELA'AT] Syrian Vice President Khaddam stated that the Lebanese Government will remain until the end, while you are demanding its removal. Is there a difference of opinion between you and Syria on this point?

[Nasrallah] In my opinion, circumstances bear witness to the fact that this issue is related to the eleventh round of talks. In clearer terms, I can say that the Syrian brothers believe that a change of government in Lebanon would not be conducive to the nation's safety and security and would also be dangerous for the economy. This viewpoint is based on certain specific premises. However, we believe that this government is endangering the safety and security of the people as well as the economic situation, even though our Syrian brothers may not concur. However, I should state that Lebanon and Syria are allies and tread a common path in these talks. I wish to ask why the Lebanese Government signed a covert agreement with the United States and Israel on the mobilization of military forces in crisis situations without first coordinating with Syria. This took place when Syria and Lebanon had signed an accord that was ignored when the Lebanese Government signed a clandestine agreement with the United States and Israel.

The Lebanese Government can turn its back on the accord with Syria and trample over Syria's political stance whenever it wishes. Thus, it also rent the chests of the people under the airport bridge. [reference to Lebanese Government troops firing on demonstrators protesting the signing of the Israeli-PLO accord in September] We say that this government cannot ensure internal peace and security and does not adhere to its strategic accords with Syria.

[ETTELA'AT] In three months, al-Hirawi is to sign an accord with the enemy. Will the Hizballah resist this all by itself?

[Nasrallah] This opposition will not be confined to the Hizballah, as it is certain that any agreement that Lebanon signs with the enemy will not be accepted by the Lebanese people. Any kind of pact with the enemy is tantamount to opening the doors of Lebanon to the organizations, security forces, domination, and sedition of the enemy. My belief is that the plan for peace with the enemy will generate unrest in Lebanon.

We will gain nothing from any treaty with Israel, which is an enemy of the Arabs and the Muslims. This hostility continues as before. Israel is an usurper and will continue its usurpation. No one will ever hear any mention

of an official recognition of the enemy from us even if we were to go to the gallows or be massacred.

The issue of resistance and struggle will continue and this is our foremost obligation. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Some circles believe that the motive behind the killings was to hinder Hizballah, as it wanted to use the Lebanese Palestinians to hamper the trend of the peace talks.

[Nasrallah] I do not know to what extent this can be considered a motivation for the recent massacre. In any case, the Hizballah is the most loyal and sincere group regarding the Palestinian cause and will not hesitate to sacrifice lives for this cause.

[ETTELA'AT] There are some who ask why the Hizballah considers itself so committed to the Palestinian cause when the Palestinians themselves have shrugged off their responsibility to continue the struggle.

[Nasrallah] First, this is a very simplistic attitude and those who utter such remarks are unaware of the enormity of future dangers. 'Arafat is a traitor and is neither the representative of the Palestinian people nor of Palestine. The dangers of his actions are clear to all and most of the people have been affected by them. How will 'Arafat grapple with the problem of the return of the Palestinians and the economic and security problems? 'Arafat has opened the doors of the Arab world and of Islam to the Zionists and Israel and has not gained anything himself.

He has committed treachery against the Palestinian cause and the people. We are also part of the stratum that has sustained a stab in the back. Is it correct for the Lebanese people to remain silent? Is it appropriate for the regional nations to keep quiet? When we took to the streets, it was to prove to the United States, Israel, and all the arrogant powers of the world who were celebrating 'Arafat's treason and defeat that 'Arafat is not the embodiment of the entire nation. 'Arafat and his ilk cannot impose their will on the nation, which is endowed with dynamic and living forces and has struggled with its firm determination and will.

Another question that is being asked is why did the Hizballah stage demonstrations and get embroiled in a conflict with the government? No one asks why the government decided to get involved in these demonstrations. Would it not have been more preferable if, for the sake of greater political credibility and security, the government could have been on the side of the demonstrators? It could have said: We have agreed to these demonstrations. Thus, it would have preserved its own loftiness and Lebanon would have continued to be known as a freedom-loving country. The people and the government would have coalesced for conveying their political stance against the Gaza-Jericho accord. If the demonstrations had concluded without any problems, Lebanon would have gained the reputation of being a peace-loving country.

[ETTELA'AT] It is being stated that one of the reasons for the massacre was that the Lebanese Government wished to attain peace as soon as possible, which is why it got embroiled with its opponents.

[Nasrallah] First, we traversed all the natural political stages regarding the possibilities present in the path of Israeli-Lebanese talks and we were in no hurry for any direct clash with the government.

The true motive was what I mentioned before. A historical incident occurred and we expressed our political stance. The other point is that we do not want to succumb to political duress in the country or suppression and the ban on freedom, as this would endanger the future of the country.

Therefore, if today the Lebanese Government is talking of resistance and opposition to the Gaza-Jericho plan and is whining on the other hand about what to do, it should expect dire consequences in the future.

[ETTELA'AT] Is the Hizballah rallying the forces opposed to the compromise with the enemy?

[Nasrallah] We would prefer to have all the opposing forces in Lebanon converge in one place and unite. In any case, we wish to work within a common framework with all those who are opposed to this compromise and to coordinate our respective programs.

[ETTELA'AT] Do you have any conditions for the coordination of all the Christian forces opposed to the Arab-Israeli accord?

[Nasrallah] Our only condition is that they should not have any dealings with Israel.

[ETTELA'AT] And if they have had such contacts in the past with Israel?

[Nasrallah] What is important is that at present they should not have any such dealings.

[ETTELA'AT] There are some who justify this by saying that there is no problem in having contacts with the enemy as the Arabs have reached an accord with Israel.

[Nasrallah] There is a group of forces in Israel who are part of this Israeli scheme and are serving its cause. They are working side by side with the usurpers against the Lebanese people. There are many such forces in Lebanon and this is a normal phenomenon. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Knowledge of Agreement With Israeli Airline

NC1111143393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Transport Minister 'Umar Misqawi denied today that he knows anything about the signing of agreements between Beirut travel agents and an Israeli airline under

which the latter would begin flights to Beirut immediately after a peace treaty is signed between some Arab countries and Israel.

In remarks to REUTER, Misqawi emphasized that Lebanon is committed to the Arab boycott of Israel. He said: I know nothing about such a deal. The Government will carry out an investigation, however. We are committed to the boycott resolution.

Minister Warns of 'New Round of Violence'

PM1211120493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Junblatt Warns of New Cycle of Violence in Lebanon"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Walid Junblatt, Lebanese refugee affairs minister [and leader of the Progressive Socialist Party], has warned that groups harmed by the al-Ta'if accord and which misinterpret its content are preparing for a new round of violence to thwart the existing peace in Lebanon. He warned that any attempt to sabotage peace, which he termed the "'Awn tendency," would be confronted decisively.

Junblatt's remarks came in a lecture he delivered the day before yesterday evening in the British Army and Navy Club in London at the invitation of the Lebanese Studies Center in the UK.

Junblatt said that the al-Ta'if accord not only put an end to the civil war in Lebanon, but was also a starting point for the building of a new Lebanon in accordance with a more realistic political balance.

He said that the phase of the domination of state institutions by what he termed "political Maronism" has ended. He urged wise leaders to learn historical lessons from the civil war.

Junblatt warned against preparing the Lebanese Army to play a political role in the country along the lines of what happened under former President Fu'ad Shihab and the two former commanders Ibrahim Tannus and Michel 'Awn.

Junblatt emphasized Syria's role in ending the civil war in Lebanon, saying that the alliance with Damascus is one of the Lebanese state's strategic constants. He also said: In the foreign policies of states there are priorities which take precedence over others. The priority in Lebanon at present is the Israeli forces' withdrawal from its occupied south. Then the Lebanese and Syrian capitals can discuss whether the Syrian forces' deployment in Lebanon is still necessary.

Junblatt criticized the PLO's separate peace agreement with Israel, stressing that the Palestinian cause is an Arab cause for which the Arab states, especially Lebanon and Syria, have made many sacrifices.

He added: But we will wait to see whether Yasir 'Arafat can recover Jerusalem and free the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from the Israeli occupation and Jewish settlers.

Junblatt stressed his opposition to settling Palestinians in Lebanon only, for the sake of safeguarding their national identity. However, he supports their settlement and demands that Palestinians in Lebanon should be granted passports and a have a ministry for Palestinian affairs established to look after their concerns in Lebanon, if their return to their land is difficult. He said that he does not fear the Palestinians' settlement for the local reasons raised by some people in Lebanon.

With regard to his ministerial work, Junblatt said that 8,000 evacuated families have returned to their homes and villages since he assumed this ministry nearly a year ago. The most recent returnees were the evacuees of the al-Karantina area.

He said that the lack of financial resources is still the main obstacle to a speedy return. He added that $450 million is needed to rebuild the destroyed villages and homes.

Junblatt praised Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's role in the development and reconstruction policy, saying that Lebanon needs 250 Hariris to revive and rescue its economy.

SLA Member Injured in Bomb Explosion

NC1111093893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] According to security sources, an explosive device was detonated by resistance fighters under a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol on the (Ish'adif) road in the Jazzin area this morning. One patrol member was injured.

The Faithful Resistance [name occasionally used by Amal fighters] claimed responsibility for detonating a bomb on the Rimat-Saydun road this morning.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Begins Official Talks

Al-Asad Receives Mikhailidhis

JN0911160793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Cypriot Foreign Minister Alekos Mikhailidhis at 1330 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

An official round of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry this morning between the Syrian side, led by Faruq al-Shar', and the Cypriot side led by Alekos Mikhailidhis. From the Syrian side, the talks were attended by the foreign minister's assistant, Yusuf Shakkur; the director of the Economic Department; the director of Western Europe Department; the director of the minister's office; and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Cyprus.

From the Cypriot side, the meeting was attended by (Masus Amputis), the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; the director of the Economic Department; the director of the Minister's Office; and the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus.

The meeting reviewed the regional and international situation, especially developments of the Middle East peace process, and the situation in Cyprus. Bilateral relations of cooperation and friendship were also discussed.

The two sides expressed their joint desire to develop the friendly relations and enhance them in various fields.

Envoy Delivers Invitation to al-Asad

JN0911171993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Cypriot Foreign Minister Alekos Mikhailidhis and his delegation at 1330 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus.

Mikhailidhis conveyed to president Hafiz al-Asad the greetings of Cypriot President Glavkos Kliridhis, and the president asked him to covey his greetings and wishes to President Kliridhis and the Cypriot people.

The Cypriot foreign minister delivered to the president an invitation from President Kliridhis to visit Cyprus. The president accepted the invitation and promised to respond to it at a suitable time.

Talks dealt with the situation in Cyprus and the Middle East and the peace process.

The Cypriot minister expressed his country's appreciation and support for the Syrian position and efforts to attain a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Cooperation Discussed With Al-Shar'

NC0911201893 Nicosia Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Greek 1700 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Syria gave the assurance that it will consistently continue to support a just and lasting Cyprus solution based on the relevant UN resolutions and it will also be on the side of the Cypriot people's struggle to safeguard their human rights and freedoms. The assurance was given to Foreign Minister Alekos Mikhailidhis by his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' during their meeting today in Damascus.

The two men also discussed at their meeting the Middle East issues and the expansion of bilateral cooperation in various fields. Mr. Mikhailidhis also discussed the Cyprus question, the Middle East issue, and Cypriot-Syrian relations with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Envoy Departs With 'Best Impressions'

JN1011200693 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that Damascus is not certain whether Israel wants peace and whether Israel has really opted for peace. Al-Shar' said that the current threat to the peace process is not Syria, but Israel, which is evading a just, comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He added that, in light of the recent stands of the government of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Syria is not certain whether peace is Israel's option. On the other hand, he said, everyone knows that the achievement of just, comprehensive peace is Syria's strategic choice.

As he was bidding the Cypriot foreign minister farewell, al-Shar' was asked by REUTER what the current obstacle to the peace process is. Al-Shar' said that Israel is responsible because of its evasion of work for a comprehensive peace and its lack of readiness to withdraw from all the Arab territories it is occupying.

He added: Since the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Syria's doubts are increasing daily about the possibility of achieving peace in the region in accordance with the bases and principles of the Madrid conference.

Al-Shar' said that the current threat to the peace process is not Syria, but the stands of the Israeli side, which, since the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, has been trying to torpedo the bases and principles of the Madrid conference and to evade a comprehensive peace.

Meanwhile, Cypriot Foreign Minister Alekos Mikhailidhis and his wife left Damascus this evening following a three day visit to Syria.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', his wife, the director of the West Europe Department, the assistant of the protocol department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Cypriot Foreign Minister in Damascus.

Mikhailidhis made a statement in which he said: I am leaving Damascus with the best impressions. I have had the honor to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad. It has been an opportunity to discuss matters and issues of mutual interest regarding the Cypriot issue, the peace process, and the efforts to establish a just, comprehensive peace in the region. I have had the pleasure to convey to President Hafiz al-Asad an invitation from President Kliridhis to visit Cyprus. I am happy that this invitation has been accepted. We are looking forward to this visit soon.

He said: During my visit, I had talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on political issues pertaining to the Cypriot and the Middle East issues, as well as means of bolstering bilateral cooperation in political, economic, trade, and other areas.

He indicated that at the table of discussions there were documents dealing with specific agreements. He expressed confidence that these agreements will be signed soon and no later than January. He stressed a sincere desire to cement relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Shar' Receives Australian Envoy, Parliamentarians

JN1111143893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received an Australian parliamentary delegation led by Robert Brown. Shakir Is'ayyid, the head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly, attended the meeting.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with the developments of the situation in the region, the peace process, the effects of the Israeli agreement with the PLO, and the obstacles to the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

Discussions also dealt with relations between Syria and Australia and means of bolstering, promoting, and expanding them.

Khaddam Meets Australia's Brown

JN1111171993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received an Australian parliamentary delegation led by Robert Brown at 1200 today. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the of Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly, and the Australian ambassador in Damascus.

Talks dealt with the situation in the region in general and the latest developments in the peace process in particular.

The vice president reaffirmed that Syria, which had an effective role in the launching of the peace process, is eager to work for the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received the Australian parliamentary delegation at noon today.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations.

Press Reiterates Rejection of Secret Talks

JN0711083093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH comments on some media reports that Syria is holding secret talks with Israel. The paper affirms such reports proved to be unfounded. Syria always says that it does not work in the dark, and that it makes public all its beliefs, since it has no secrets of any kind, especially with regard to the peace process.

President al-Asad has said time and again that the Arab citizen has the right to be in the picture of what is happening at the peace talks. On this basis, Syria makes public its beliefs, and never overlooks this question, whatever the circumstances.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria always works against unilateral, partial solutions. It realizes that such solutions serve only Israel and its objectives.

Syria went to the Madrid conference and the Washington bilateral talks out of its concern that the peace talks should lead to a comprehensive settlement through which the Arabs can regain their rights in full. In order for this to happen, Syria has repeatedly stressed the need to enhance full, integrated coordination between the Arab parties directly involved in the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that the developments in the peace process have borne out Syria's sincere peace attitude, and that it is doubling its efforts to rescue the chance for peace.

The paper adds: When Syria concentrates on the need for progress on all fronts of the negotiations; insists on excluding transitional steps and partial, incomplete solutions; and sticks to the true, broad concept of peace envisioned by the resolutions of international legitimacy, it does so because it proceeds from a self-evident truth, namely, that if peace were not just and comprehensive and did not end all forms of injustice and occupation in the region, then it would not be a true, durable peace. It would also never rid the region of the tension and explosions threatening it constantly with more war tragedies.

The paper asserts that Syria wants peace, is working for it, and is sincerely seeking to consolidate an atmosphere of security and stability in the Middle East. Syria's desire for peace, however, does not mean it is ready to engage in behind-the-scenes negotiations conducted away from

the eyes of the international community. Syria's desire for peace cannot also prompt it to be carried away by the illusions of partial, unilateral solutions planned by Israel to serve its long-term schemes and objectives.

Syria wants to work in the open and in accordance with the formula agreed on in Madrid to achieve peace. No doubt, Syria's adherence to the foundations of a just, comprehensive peace and its insistence on the full implementation of Security Council resolutions reflect its eagerness to take advantage of the peace opportunity to reach a solution that gives each party its rights and leads to the restoration of Arab rights and territory in full.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Israel, which has repeatedly adopted provocative stands contradicting any desire for a just, comprehensive peace, now has two options: It can either renounce the policy of aggression and extremism and accept the conditions that are in the interest of peace or pursue its current approach and stick to the policy of procrastination and deception, and consequently pass up the peace opportunity and drown the region in endless chaos and instability.

Under the headline "True, Lasting Peace," TISHRIN asserts that there can be no peace in the region without Syria. This fact cannot be ignored by anyone, because any peace without Syria would remain fragile and truncated and would not provide the requirements of security and stability in the Middle East.

If Israel cares about the security and stability of the region, then it must, first of all, acknowledge that it is impossible to bypass Syria's role.

TISHRIN adds: This is stressed by the Madrid formula, which is based on a just, comprehensive solution and not dividing the tracks of the negotiating process.

When Syria reiterates through repeated statements that peace cannot be begged for, that the Arabs are not standing in line waiting for Israel's mercy, and that withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories will open a new chapter of stability and calm in the region, Syria thus reaffirms its concern to achieve a just, comprehensive peace. It also reasserts the possibility of rescuing the peace process from the Israeli obstacles and leading the peace process to the safety shore and to its real objectives that are supported by documents and pledges, even before the Madrid conference.

TISHRIN notes that developments have proven that unilateral peace and partial deals further complicate the situation and increase tension in the region. They also weaken the Arab position and give Israel the power to maintain its occupation.

Concluding, TISHRIN asserts that out of its great concern to see the region enjoy stability, Syria will continue to adhere to a just, comprehensive solution and make every possible effort to establish justice and right and reach a solution that responds to Arab rights, restores Arab territory, and ends Israeli aggression, terrorism, suppression, and occupation. Only a solid position, insisting on the constants of the peace process, and commitment to the principle of land for peace would make the peace process achieve its desired objectives.

Support for Land-for-Peace Formula Emphasized

JN0911081393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "What Is the Peace They Are Talking About?", AL-BA'TH writes: Regional and world powers keep pointing out the need for a comprehensive Middle East settlement. Israel, however, continues to be the only dissenting voice, thinking that all the Arabs will flock to it, as Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres put it. The paper emphasizes that Israel is thus miscalculating. There is no way the Arabs, specifically Syria, will backtrack on their known and constant position on a Middle East settlement. AL-BA'TH stresses that Syria will continue to stick to the principles of a settlement as envisaged by the Madrid peace conference; namely, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace formula, which translates as complete withdrawal for complete peace. Israel and likeminded countries would be woefully wrong to think that peace has come with the mere signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord or convening a conference to discuss waters or the environment and such issues. AL-BA'TH wonders: How can peace have a chance when all of Palestine and other large and important chunks of other Arab territory are still under occupation? What is the peace they are talking about when all the root causes of the conflict with our enemy are still there? What they are talking about is not peace but capitulation to our enemy and its will—something we cannot allow under any circumstances.

It is worth pointing out that the Arab nation has survived even more serious adversities and went on to triumph. We, therefore, reiterate that we joined the peace process because we wanted the establishment of the kind of real peace under which the Arabs regain their rights. It has been shown beyond a shadow of doubt that partial and separate solutions can never bring the kind of peace the international community wants.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: The international community, including ourselves, wants the kind of peace that banishes all the causes of tension from the region rather than one carrying the seeds of tension and wars.

India

'Militants' Inside Shrine Told To Lay Down Arms

BK1111160293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the government's chief negotiator, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, has said that the militants inside the shrine have been told that they have to lay down their arms, come out of the shrine and accept the process of law. Talking to newsmen after an hour-long negotiations with the militants this afternoon, he said the government will treat them humanely and justly.

Meanwhile, the security forces today recovered some more explosive and incriminating documents from a building inside the Kashmir University campus adjacent to the Hazratbal shrine. The Army spokesman, Brigadier S.P.S. Kanwar, told newsmen that this was the third such recovery from the university campus in the last one month. Today's recovery included a hand grenade, a detonator, some wires and 25 identity cards of the members of a militant outfit.

The police chief, Mr. Mahinder Sabharwal, said that the situation throughout the valley is peaceful and in the Srinagar city the curfew is limited today to Hazratbal shrine locality only.

Congress-S on U.S. 'Interference' in Kashmir

BK1211092093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Workers of the Congress-S who marched to the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi today protesting against Washington's interference in India's internal affairs were prevented while on their way by the police. In a memorandum given to the U.S. ambassador later, they said that the U.S. Government has no right to question the Instrument of Accession of Jammu and Kashmir by Maharaja Hari Singh. The people of India will not tolerate such interference, the memorandum added.

U.S. 'Arm-Twisting' on Kashmir Issue Criticized

BK0811124793 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 2 Nov 93 p 1

[Chandan Mitra article]

[Text] New Delhi, Nov. 1: Bludgeoned by General Aidid in Somalia, blissfully ignored by Radovan Karadzic in Bosnia and pushed around even by Europe, the U.S. State Department appears to have stumbled upon a perfect spot for getting some practice in muscleflexing—Kashmir.

Evidently, the eager-beavers of the State Department want to show quick results somewhere, to bail out a beleagured President Clinton, whose foreign policy is currently in a shambles. It seems to be the assessment of Mr. Clinton's inexperienced team that India is an ideal target for a bout of arm-twisting.

According to Washington watchers here, Ms. Robin Raphel had two objectives in mind while indulging in some hearty Indiabashing last weekend. First, she wanted to open up a virgin area for American intervention, internationalise the Kashmir issue and show some success to offset the State Department's hitherto dismal record.

Second, she wanted to position the U.S. as a key player in South Asia's geo-politics, on the calculation that in the post-Soviet world, India would have no option but to acquiesce in the U.S. role as global muscleman.

Ironically, however, all her objectives appear to have been defeated even before they could get off the ground. The Indian response has been so firm, although couched in polite language, that short of telling Ms. Raphel to "go fish", everything else has been said.

However, her remarks, which mark a significant departure in USA's South Asia policy, are likely to embitter diplomatic relations between New Delhi and Washington for the rest of Mr. Clinton's terms unless a serious damage-limitation exercise is quickly undertaken.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Office here is learnt to have taken serious exception to the "offensive" and "undiplomatic" language used by Ms. Raphel. For example, at one point in her press conference Ms. Raphel condescendingly remarked: "We have pushed the Indians hard to clean up their act in terms of human rights violations in the Valley and restore some semblance of Government there."

It is learnt that at no point has the U.S. Administration officially suggested to India that it should "clean up its act." So, the question of having pushed India "hard" on this point simply does not arise.

In fact, the talks between the U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr. Peter Tarnoff, and India's Foreign Secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, during the latter's visit to Washington were most cordial. The U.S. neither pushed nor shoved India on any point, it is reliably learnt.

What is bound to outrage Indian officials is Ms. Raphel's gratuitous advice to New Delhi to "restore some semblance of Government" in Kashmir. This is certain to be seen as a deliberately provocative remark since the U.S. Administration cannot be unaware that life is continuing pretty much normally in the Valley with the entire apparatus of the State functioning.

Banks are working, transport is plying, schools and colleges are functioning, agriculture and smallscale industry is as active as before, and by all conventional yardsticks the Government infrastructure is intact.

It is on the basis of such deliberately distorted comments that the conclusion is being drawn that the problem goes deeper and an element of personal bias may have crept into the shaping of Washington's South Asia policy.

Interestingly, Ms. Robin Raphel is the third wife of Arnold Raphel who was U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan and died in the plane crash with Gen. Ziaul Haq in 1989. She has spent some time in Pakistan apart from serving at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.

Quite significantly, several key officers at the South Asia Desk in the State Department have served in Pakistan in recent years. This coincidence seems uncanny and could go some way in explaining the sudden and unprovoked shift in U.S. policy towards India.

Some bewilderment has also been caused by the weekend's developments especially since New Delhi was only recently assured by quarters much higher than Ms. Raphel that there was no question of the U.S. supporting the anti-India resolution sponsored by Pakistan at the UN General Assembly. The resolution is likely to be taken up for discussion any time between November 23 and December 8.

Further, the U.S. Government has apparently told Pakistan to desist from issuing provocative statements on Kashmir and has also made clear its opposition to the hostile stance of the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC).

Therefore, it is still possible that different sections of the U.S. State Department are working at cross purposes and Ms. Raphel's objective of India-bashing and scoring a "foreign policy success" may not be eventually achieved.

It is clear, however, that with her aggressive remarks, Ms. Raphel has put paid to any prospects of the U.S. playing a mediatory role between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. In sum, therefore, her comments can only result in a shrinkage of the U.S. role in the sub-continent.

What Ms. Raphel probably did not take into account is the fact that the U.S. has little leverage over India, even in terms of financial aid. The total quantum of U.S. development assistance to India this year is $41 million—peanuts by international standards.

But Indian officials are dismayed by the overall unhelpful attitude of the U.S. even in matters of bilateral trade. It is pointed out that the Indian Government has gone out of its way to try and accommodate U.S. concerns, despite strong domestic reactions.

By questioning India's territorial integrity, the Clinton Administration has got the entire country's hackles up, which will make it extremely difficult for the Government to appear accommodating towards Washington.

Punjab State 'Disturbed Area' for 6 More Months

BK0811133893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] The Punjab government has further declared the whole state as disturbed area for another six months. The chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh, told our Chandigarh correspondent that the extension of the act till May next year will enable the government to bring complete normalcy in the state. He said under the act, security forces can check and raid any suspected place or person without warrants. Meanwhile, the Chandigarh administration has also extended the period of disturbed area act in the union territory for another six months.

Islamabad Reports Strikes, Clashes in Kashmir

BK0911144493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, the standoff between the Indian authorities and the besieged people of dargah [shrine] Hazratbal continues as the latest effort at talks bogged down. The situation has worsened after the remarks of the Indian Army chief, General Joshi, who has not ruled out fresh Army operation against the dargah.

Meanwhile, strikes and clashes continue throughout the held valley. Several Indian soldiers were reported killed in grenade attacks in Tral and Baramula. Three innocent Kashmiris were also martyred by Indian soldiers. Forty more civilians have been arrested during search operations by Indian soldiers in Baramula and Pulwama.

B.R. Singh New Commissioner for Kashmir

BK0911133993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Mr. B.R. Singh has taken over as the new commissioner of Kashmir division. Mr. Singh has been appointed in place of Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, who is undergoing treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi following injuries in a road accident.

In Srinagar, the situation in and around the Hazratbal Shrine remains unchanged. The security forces are maintaining a strict vigil. The police chief, Mr. Mahinder Sabharwal, told newsmen that the administration remains committed to a fair and peaceful solution of the tangle. Curfew in the city is now confined only to the Hazratbal locality.

Naxalites Blow Up Building in Andhra Pradesh

BK0811150293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, Naxalites [Maoist militants] of the outlawed People's War Group, PWG, blasted the mandal [subdistrict] revenue office building at (Bizugondar) in Warangal District early today. Blasting experts including bomb squad of the Army have rushed to the spot for investigations. The condition of 15 injured is stated to be critical. In another incident, an unidentified Naxalite was killed in an encounter with the police in the district last night.

Polling Begins for Hiamchal Pradesh Assembly

BK0911040493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Polling began at seven this morning in Hiamchal Pradesh to elect the 68-member assembly. Adequate security arrangements have been made for smooth conduct of the election. Over 32 lakh voters are expected to exercise their franchise. The director general of police, Mr. Amrikh Singh, told our Simla correspondent that over 20,000 security personnel have been deployed to guard 4,681 polling stations. Out of this, 1,400 booths have been declared sensitive, and in the tribal areas there are 406 stations. [passage omitted—correspondent's report on visit to various polling stations].

Voting Concludes; No Violence

BK0911133193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] In Himachal Pradesh, polling ended at 1700 [1130 GMT] this evening in the elections to the 68-member state assembly. According to the state chief electoral officer, between 50 and 55 percent polling has been reported till 1530 this afternoon. No complaints of any kind or incidents of violence have been reported from anywhere. AIR [All India Radio] correspondents from different parts of the state report that polling, which began in a dull note, picked up later. In Lahaul and Spiti and Kinnaur Districts, a large number of people were seen casting their votes in subzero temperature.

Iran

MKO Member Arrested for Attack on French Embassy

LD1111151993 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 11, IRNA—The conspiracy hatched by the terrorist Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO), aimed at tarnishing Iran-France ties, was disclosed with the arrest of an MKO element in Tehran, Information Ministry announced.

The arrested MKO member has been involved in the Tuesday [9 November] attack on the French Embassy and Air France office in Tehran.

Details on the MKO conspiracy and those arrested in connection with the recent explosions in the French interests in Tehran will be subsequently announced, the ministry said.

French Asylum for 'Terrorist' MKO Members Condemned

LD1111143493 Tehran IRNA in English 1402 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 11, IRNA—The return of some members of terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) to France shows total disregard of the French policy-makers for the sentiments of Iranian people, says an article in KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL today.

Maryam Gajar Azodanlu, the third wife of Mas'ud Rajavi, the head of the terrorist MKO, fled Iraq and arrived in Paris early this month. The French officials are considering to reinstate the refugee status granted to her in 1983.

By allowing the terrorist MKO members to take asylum in Paris once again and at the same time arresting the law-abiding Algerian Muslims in France under the pretext of fighting "Islamic fundamentalism," the Elysee authorities have unveiled their inherent animosity towards Islam, says the paper.

It was not expected of a country like France, "with cultural ties to the Algerian people, the result of its 130-year-old colonial rule to be misled by the equation made in other Western capitals about the supposed dangers of an Islamic victory," the article added.

Whether france likes it or not, the coup leaders in Algiers, are a transitionary lot, whom history will soon forget. "But what is more important, France which regards the detainees as 'potential terrorists,' should not try to counceal the fact that notorious terrorists, have of late, started their trek back to Paris from Baghdad," added the paper.

According to latest reports, terrorists wanted by Iranian authorities are in Paris along with some other dangerous elements. "Perhaps they want to use Paris as an alternate base for their nefarious designs," said the daily.

The article concluded by writing, "will France be brave enough to honor peace and the principles of democracy by rounding up the group and extraditing them to Tehran? The French, it is said, are a civilized people, and the same is true of their wise and foresighted policy-makers. It is now interesting to see, how suavely the peace-loving leaders in Elysee Palace will handle the situation."

France's Decision Seen Straining Relations

LD1011174093 Tehran IRNA in English 1433 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—The French Government's decision to host the terrorist Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO) ringleaders has deeply strained Tehran-Paris relations.

The permission given by the Paris government to Maryam Rajavi, the third wife of the MKO ringleader to stay in Paris has aroused anger of the Iranians and other Islamic societies at France's unprincipled measure.

Iran's Foreign Ministry recently voiced its strong protest over the issue.

Some diplomatic circles in Europe believe that permitting MKO terrorists to stay in France has triggered disputes within the French Government.

In the opinion of the Tehran-based diplomats, France's decision to once again grant asylum to the MKO members is an irresponsible act. Some MKO ringleaders including Maosud Rajavi were expelled from France in 1986.

Such a step taken by the Paris government contradicts its recent gestures to improve and expand its ties with Tehran.

According to some political experts, the reappearance of MKO ringleaders in Paris at this juncture shows that France's foreign policies are influenced by active pro-Zionist persons.

The experts are of the opinion that through such an act, the Zionists not only have dealt a blow to the attempts by the pragmatic members of the French Government to improve ties with Tehran but have also saved the MKO terrorists from reprisal attacks of the Iraqi people.

Proving their subservience to the Baghdad regime, the Iraq-based MKO terrorists massacred hundreds of Iraqi people during a popular uprising in southern and northern Iraq.

In retaliation for the crimes committed by MKO members, the Iraqi people have attacked the terrorists in various Iraqi cities eight times over the past year, killing scores of them.

Maryam Rajavi Resigns as MKO Secretary General

LD1111145993 Tehran IRNA in English 1247 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 11, IRNA—French news agency quoting terrorist MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq] members reported Thursday [11 November] that Maryam Qajar Azodanlu, the third wife of the MKO ringleader, Mas'ud Rajavi, has resigned from the so-called post of secretary general of the MKO.

She was promoted to the post after divorcing Mehdi Abrishamchi, and marrying Rajavi. Azodanlu arrived in Paris from Iraq about two weeks ago.

French radio had earlier reported that Azodanlu had left Iraq due to intra-group disputes. Before her departure from Iraq, the MKO had announced that she had been appointed as the self-styled "future president of Iran."

Her departure from Iraq came a month after the MKO decision to attack Iranian border areas. Following the decision the MKO, backed by the Iraqi troops, launched at least three attacks against the western border areas, killing eight border villagers.

Several MKO elements arrested recently in border areas disclosed that the plan to attack the Iranian borders had faced oppositions of certain MKO members.

The plan to create new organizational posts as well as deceitful promises are the MKO tricks to encounter the increasing disillusionment of the members.

Imams' Gathering Rejects Improvement of U.S. Ties

LD1111160393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] The sixth gathering [gerd-e hama'i] of the Friday imams of Tehran Province was held this morning in the Imam Khomeyni camp in Lavasanat region of Tehran.

According to a Central News Unit report, in this gathering Mr. Mohsen Do'agu, the secretary of the Friday Imams Association of Tehran Province, raised the most important domestic and foreign issues of the day. Referring to the remarks of the esteemed leader [Khamene'i] on the national day of campaign against world arrogance [4 November] and stressing his important and historic stances, he said: In his remarks, the esteemed leader rejected the views concerning talks with America, limited or full relations with that country, and, once again, proved that relations with America have no logical justification and that the fight against these tendencies must still continue.

The secretary of the Friday Imams Association of Tehran Province then referred to another part of the speech of the esteemed leader about the need for the participation of young people in political activities. He called for the continuation of the struggle against world arrogance, led by criminal America.

The sixth gathering of the Friday Imams Association of Tehran Province came to an end after a discussion of the issue of America's defeat in Somalia and the necessity of fighting against Zionism, supporting Islamic uprisings in Palestine, and combating the cultural onslaught.

Jannati Reaffirms Rejection of U.S. Ties

LD1211121493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Today the glorious Friday prayers ceremonies were held throughout the state, with the participation of masses of worshippers. In Tehran, the worshippers held their Friday prayers in pouring rain.

At the beginning of the prayers sermons, Ayatollah Jannati, Tehran's acting Friday prayers imam, referred to the anniversary of the historic event of the banning of tobacco. He described some aspects of the struggle by the clerics against the ignominious agreements that had put the state under the domination of the East and West at a certain period during the reign of the Qajar dynasty. He recalled the fatwa on banning tobacco, which was issued

by the worthy jurisconsult Ayatollah Mirza Hasan Shirazi in 1270 [year beginning 21 March 1891], as a shining point in Islamic history.

Continuing the sermons, Ayatollah Jannati described the recent and most crucial statements by the exalted leadership [Khamene'i], concerning the rejection of any ties with America, as clarification of any ambiguity in this regard. Noting that America's aim is to put pressure on Islamic states to surrender unconditionally to bullies and to make nations lose hope in the shining beacon that has been created in the struggle against arrogance, he stressed: The only way to safeguard the Islamic revolution is by consolidating positions directed against arrogance and raising the level of the political awareness of the community. He described the slogan "Neither East, nor West: Islamic Republic" as the unalterable tenet of the Iranian nation.

Offering his condolences on the death anniversary of the religious scholar Tabataba'i, Ayatollah Jannati referred to current issues in the Islamic world, especially in Azerbaijan, Algeria, Palestine, and Bosnia. He condemned the silence of international forums, which are merely spectators of the atrocities that are perpetrated in those areas.

Aims of U.S. Policy in Central Asia Questioned

LD1111204093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] The newly appointed U.S. under secretary of state for South Asian affairs, Ms. Robin Raphel, arrived in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, on Wednesday November 10, on the third leg of her tour of the region. She has already visited Pakistan and Afghanistan, and during her two-day visit to Tajikistan she is expected to meet the senior officials of that country, including the Tajik president, Rakhmanov.

According to informed news sources Ms. Raphel is to offer new proposals on resolving the critical problems of Tajikistan and ending the fighting between the government forces and the opposition on the Afghan border line. Political observers believe that the U.S. has launched new efforts in the region on a large scale.

Since the coming to power of the new government in Pakistan, over which the U.S. is pleased, Washington has been showing inclination for playing a new role in the region. Ms. Raphel's visit to the three countries of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan has [words indistinct] to carry out a preparatory view of the present conditions in these countries from close quarters so the ground for wide-scale activity in the [words indistinct] could be arranged.

As has been apparently said, the U.S. Administration intends to resolve the problems of Afghanistan and help overcome the problems of Tajikistan, but certain political analysts look at the new U.S. activity with pessimism. They believe the United States, in order to check the Islamic wave in the Central Asian region, wants to increase its influence in the region through improving relations with the Afghan and Tajik governments.

This is so because Washington knows that if the Afghan Government could be persuaded to enter the political framework that has been set by the White House, there would be no basic problem in bringing it closer to Rakhmanov government in Tajikistan. Therefore Ms. Raphel's visit to Afghanistan and Tajikistan, on the one hand provides the ground for the U.S. to play a role in the Afghan-Tajik border clashes, and on the other increases the White House's hopes for bringing under control the tendencies toward Islamic fundamentalism.

At present the U.S. Administration, despite its past slogans of defending the freedom and the human rights, has no problem in dealing with the communist government in Tajikistan, for it believes that the present Tajik Government has as a matter of fact checked the growth of Islamic tendencies.

However, most experts believe that the trend of Islamic tendencies and Islamic values is present in Central Asian countries despite the 70-year long efforts by the communists to eliminate it. They believe that the limited efforts by the United States and its allies cannot keep the people of the region away from Islamic trends, which are deeply rooted in their history and culture, especially when despite the present problems, the Afghan Government has deep inclination toward Islam. It is improbable that by giving the so-called concessions, the United States will be able to push Afghanistan in the direction which secures the long-term interests of the White House in Central Asia.

Commentary Views Persian Gulf Exercises, GCC Plans

NC1011110693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The United States has announced it will carry out joint military exercises with Britain and Kuwait in the Persian Gulf between 15 November and 13 December. During their two-day conference in Abu Dhabi, the defense ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] adopted some decisions on perfecting their defense system. During the conference, the GCC defense ministers agreed on two issues: implementing an air warning system and strengthening a common force known as the Peninsula Shield Force by increasing military units.

These plans are not new and have long been on the agenda of GCC summits and GCC defense minister conferences as permanent topics. What is new is the agreement on these plans. During last year's GCC summit, the heads of the six member countries placed more emphasis on military cooperation. In parallel with

these overtures, during the past few months, high-ranking Western military and other officials have been shuttling to and from GCC countries in a bid to find markets for Western arms, to increase arms sales, and to transfer deadly weapons to this area.

Although cooperation among the Persian Gulf countries is intrinsically positive, a military alliance is somewhat negative because of its hostile nature. With their bitter experience of the Persian Gulf war, the GCC countries have more or less realized that their military strength cannot solve possible military problems or act as a deterrent. So, these countries should strive much more in effort and capital than in military means to create an atmosphere of peace and cooperation in the area so that the spirit of hostility and warmongering is uprooted and replaced by good relations and economic cooperation so that war and its objectives will become uneconomical.

Undoubtedly, the U.S.-British military exercises in this area are not within the framework of the regional countries' interests, but aim to ensure the West's economic and political interests. If peace and peaceseeking efforts form the axis of the Western countries' policy in the region, what do the military exercises mean apart from being a route to selling more arms and then finding uses for them?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Hizballah Leader

LD1111114993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the secretary general of the revolutionary Hizballah Movement of Lebanon, who is in Tehran at the head of a delegation of the leaders of that movement, this morning met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In this meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, at first the secretary general of Lebanese Hizballah submitted a report on the internal situation in Lebanon and the latest developments in that region, as well as the activities of the Zionist regime.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressing his appreciation for the just and legitimate struggles of the wronged Lebanese nation, especially the Islamic resistance, in freeing the occupied territories, stressed the need to strengthen unity and solidarity among the ranks of all Lebanese people and safeguard the territorial integrity of that country.

The president also pointed out the necessity of safeguarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian nation and said: No solution that does not guarantee the safeguarding of the real rights of the Palestinian nation will be successful and will not bring back peace and security to the region.

U.S. Charged With 'Instigating' Srinagar Incident

NC0711122293 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Oct 93 p 2

[Commentary by Majid Reza'iyan: "Repeating a Mistake"]

[Text] The massacre by the Indian army of Muslims who have sought refuge in Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar once again gives rise to the view among political circles that international behind-the-scenes pressures have plunged India's foreign policy into a new crisis.

Since the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the flames of ethnic conflicts have flared up several times in India. This shows how much the absence of the Congress Party from India's government has harmed the national prestige of one of the most important countries in the Indian subcontinent.

The creation of an ethnic balance and respect for the various religions in India are two very accepted and natural factors in India. So it seems impossible that any party in New Delhi would not observe them. But, we see how during the past few years this principle has been trampled upon with the destruction of the Babri Mosque and now with the siege of Hazratbal shrine. The following are reasons for this situation:

1. The truth is that there are well-prepared grounds in this area for Iran, Pakistan, and India to work next to each other. China, as another powerful bulwark, strengthens this situation. The coming to power of the People's Party in Pakistan is, for various reasons, one of the elements that inevitably helps to create this balance, as long as Islamabad's foreign policy does not become involved in the Kashmir crisis or the Afghan crisis. Viewed from this angle, the creation of a crisis in Kashmir and the siege of Hazratbal shrine may be a reaction to this new development in Pakistan. Thus, had the Congress Party enjoyed majority rule in all the various areas of leadership in New Delhi, it could have worked next to the People's Party in Pakistan and helped give a new outlook to the area in view of the new international atmosphere that exists.

2. The destruction or, to say the least, the weakening of New Delhi-Tehran relations—especially after the first visit that the Indian prime minister paid to Iran—constitute a major goal for some who fear the expansion of regional relations. It is regretful that in assessing the current situation, America's and the West's espionage services should inevitably be mentioned next to India. It is regretful because India has always been a country with anti-imperialist stances and has prevented the emergence of such phenomena in its foreign policy. But today, the absence of accord in the New Delhi leadership and parliament has easily helped the Indian Army—under pressures from various factions that oppose the expansion of relations between New Delhi and Tehran—to resort to attacks on Babri Mosque and the siege on Hazratbal shrine. But when fighting fundamentalism in India is considered to be

equivalent to confronting Iran's political influence, then no other outcome but this can be expected.

3. As long as no solution is found to end the Kashmiri crisis and as long as normality does not prevail in this sensitive area, the possiblity of some other conflict always exists. The special characteristic that the Kashmiri crisis has for the West is that this crisis can be used as and whenever necessary to further exacerbate the crisis in the region. The failure to find a just solution to the Kashmiri crisis and, especially, ignoring the rights of the Kashmiri Muslims as well as leaving issues such as Kashmir's territorial integrity in abeyance give the West's decision-making centers and the Indian subcontinent an opportunity to whip up a new crisis in the form of the siege and massacre of Muslims in Hazratbal shrine or any other place and to thus create a new tragedy.

4. Distracting public opinion from one crisis to another gives the engineers of these crises a fresh opportunity, each time a new crisis develops, to hide the weak points of the previous crisis. Thus, one might not see any link with the time of the withdrawal of American forces from Somalia and the siege and massacre of Muslims in Hazratbal shrine. But a pessimistic outlook has taught us that America was involved in instigating elements to start the Hazratbal crisis, that it played a sly role in all this with the intention of distracting public opinion from the situation in Somalia.

Therefore, the truth is that Islamist thought and respect for the opinion of nations cannot be limited either with American bayonets in Somalia or by the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia or in Hazratbal shrine. It goes beyond all these events. This has been proven and is being proved by history.

Yazdi Warns World Muslims of 'Sinister Plots'

LD0911111993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Ayatollah Yazdi chaired the 188th session of the judicial branch authorities yesterday. At the start of the session the head of the judicial branch discussed the recent clashes in Kashmir and the siege of Hazratbal shrine and its similarity with the demolition of Babri Mosque in India. He drew the attention of world Muslims, particularly the Muslims of India and Pakistan, to sinister plots and conspiracies hatched by the enemies of Islam. He said: Global arrogance, by creating division, intends to depict a distorted picture of Islam and Muslims. But the Islamic ummah should neutralize these feeble efforts and political conspiracies through vigilance and avoid becoming involved in clashes. [passage omitted].

Railroad Cooperation Protocol Signed With India

LD0811214293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] A protocol on cooperation between Iran and India concerning the expansion of Iran's railways was signed in Tehran on 8 November between Jaffar Sharif, the Indian railways minister, and Torkan, the roads and transport minister of our country.

Under the protocol, the two sides have expressed their willingness to utilize the experience of the Indian side in the expansion of Iran's rail container transport system. The Iranian side declared its preparedness to transport and permit the transit of Indian export goods to newly independent Central Asian Republics and Europe by rail and road.

Other agreements included in the protocol concern the repair and start-up of old Iranian locomotives and cooperation to increase the load-bearing capacity of tracks in southeast Iran from 20 to 25 tonnes.

The two sides also agreed that the construction of passenger cars for our country's railways and the manner of India's practical participation in the Bafq-Mashhad and Kerman-Zahedan railway projects should be reviewed.

Larijani Views Pakistan Events With 'Optimism'

NC0611094993 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 21 Oct 93 p 16

[Commentary by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani: "Stability in Pakistan"]

[Text] 1. The new parliament and the reelection of Mrs. Benazir Bhutto as prime minister should be seen as a good omen. Pakistan is going through a tense period, and that immense Islamic country is approaching the point where the necessary political stability will be established. As far as our interests are concerned, we need a powerful and tranquil Pakistan. Therefore, we should follow the recent developments in Pakistan with optimism. Of course, Mrs. Bhutto faces a powerful opposition faction in parliament and this will make her decision-makings difficult and, to say the least, a complicated issue. Naturally Pakistan's socioeconomic problems and the foreign threats and instigations against its security may be able to prompt the necessary backing and cooperation from the opposing faction, at least in the initial months.

2. In Pakistan, Islamic identity is the pivot of national unity and this is a great asset for that country. Pakistan was established on the basis of an identity. At the same time, its racial and regional composition has given rise to a type of domestic political rivalry which can threaten stability and security from within. But this is not the only element involved. Foreign elements should also be considered. In my opinion, there are three foreign threats at the current juncture:

—India has always regarded Pakistan's identity with historic bitterness, and this has led to extremist Hindu approaches of various degrees and in various places. Moreover, Pakistan's national security is always threatened by the Indians.

—America is dissatisfied with and concerned over Pakistan's Islamic identity, and this has been the cause of the mistrust in Pakistani-American relations. The Americans prefer an anti-religious dictatorship to the current democratic system, and the fingerprints of America can be seen in many of the instigations and tensions in Pakistan.

—Some regional countries see it in their interest to have confrontations among religions, especially between the Shiites and the Sunnis. Therefore, by extending extensive support to their supporters, they have always marred the atmosphere of coexistence and fraternity that are needed to ensure national tranquility.

3. Our country's diplomacy should consider the new developments as a new chapter in bilateral relations and it should waste no time in striving to bolster these relations. In regard to this, I propose the following priorities:

—The two countries' markets should move toward becoming one market, and within this context there should be the same standards for the two countries' products, while preferential tariffs should also be encouraged.

—The two countries' roads should be linked together and the safety of these roads be completely ensured.

—The two countries' industry and agriculture should complement each other and be able to offer products to a 150 million-strong market.

—The two countries' brains should be linked together to create the "scientific" nucleus of the world of Islam.

4. Pakistan's position in the region goes beyond bilateral relations; and this, incidentally, creates many important interests for us. Therefore, our diplomatic machinery should seriously expand its activities in the following fields:

First of all, both countries should try to restore peace and tranquility in Afghanistan and then participate jointly in the reconstruction of that oppressed country.

Secondly, Iran can use its extensive relations with India to help mitigate the tensions in Pakistani-Indian relations.

Naturally the Kashmir problem is the most important problem and Iran's principled stance can act as a basis for a solution. Iran should offer a practical plan in this field. And in view of Iran's moral influence among the Kashimiri Muslims, the chances that Iran's political actions will succeed are high.

Thirdly, Iran and Pakistan should create the nucleus of a strong and extensive political-economic body in the region. This would not be limited to cooperation within the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] but could also include China and other regional countries.

Iranian-Afghan Cooperation Commission Established

NC0911220093 Mashhad EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY in Persian 30 Oct 93 p 2

[Text] A specialized joint commission for cooperation in economic, commercial, and other fields has been set up between the Herat Province of Afghanistan and Khorasan Province [of Iran]. Engineer Javanshir, deputy director of the Khorasan Industries Organization, said last week: These commissions were approved during a recent visit by delegations from Herat.

He added: The commissions will deal with issues concerning construction materials, the manufacture of machinery, metal industries and handicrafts, and imports and exports.

Javanshir said: Commission members also reached agreements on bilateral cooperation to reactivate and complete production units in Herat by Iranian experts.

Commentary on Caspian Sea Route to Iran

NC1011200793 Tehran EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY in Persian 30 Oct 93 p 8

[Unattributed commentary: "The Importance of the Caspian Sea Maritime Routes in the Current Geopolitical Conditions"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted]

Maritime Links Between Northern Russia and Iran:

Vessels bound for Moscow have begun plying the Volga with the inauguration of the shipping canals and the construction of the three ports in Moscow (in the north, south, and west). Timber, coal, salt, crops, paper and iron ore are sent to these ports, while manufactured goods from factories and industrial centers, such as construction materials, chemical products, and quartz gravel, are transported to other parts from these ports.

The river ports in Moscow are responsible for more than 20 percent of the cargo handling operations in the port area of the Volga. Two of these three ports handle passengers. In other words, it is possible to go to Moscow and then enter the Caspian Sea via the Volga waterways and then on to Iran. Of course, the two ports in the North and the West are used for passengers in Moscow, as distances are great in this area and therefore the capacity for passenger traffic is also greater. [passage omitted]

Minister Details Progress on Transport Links With Central Asia

NC1011171593 Mashhad EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY in Persian 30 Oct 93 p 3

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Roads and Transportation Minister Akbar Torkan by unidentified EQTESAD-E KHORASAN correspondent "during his visit to Ashgabat"]

[Excerpts] [EQTESAD-E KHORASAN] As my first question, could you please tell us what objectives are being pursued by the Roads and Transportation Ministry during this visit, and what has been achieved in the talks with the officials of Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan so far?

[Torkan] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. During the course of his visit to the Central Asian countries, his excellency the president discussed various issues, including those pertaining to our agreement that we intend to sign with Turkmenistan, especially with regard to the transit of goods.

In order to explain this better, I wish to state here that the Central Asian countries are not members of the carnet triptique treaty and therefore we need to sign an agreement with them. This should incorporate a sort of guarantee by the transport companies on the transit of goods. [passage omitted]

[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN] Sir, accompanied by the Turkmen President, Mr. Niyazov, esteemed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his accompanying delegation inaugurated the customs post at Artik. Could you give us some details of the capacity of this post?

[Torkan] Prior to the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, we always imagined that our northern border was a sort of Land's End, as there were no roads leading any further. Now that these customs posts are being opened, the people on both sides of the border, who are even relatives, will be able to have trade dealings. The Artik customs post has opened after 72 years and will result in the expansion and development of trade between the two countries. In addition, we have many products in Khorasan Province that we can export to Turkmenistan and vice versa. [end Torkan]

In answer to a question on what steps had been taken to eliminate difficulties with regard to highways and the construction and reconstruction of the routes leading to Khorasan customs post, Torkan said: At present we have three major projects under way in the Lotfabad and Bajgiran region. One is the Quchan-Emamqoli highway. We are planning to basically improve and expand this highway, and its turns and twists have to be repaired. This is the project for the current year.

The other segment of the highway is from Emamqoli to Bajgiran, which is 35 km long. One part of this highway has been repaired with funds allocated by the President, but the main task is to completely reconstruct this highway. This task has been undertaken by the Roads and Transport Department of Khorasan Province, utilizing funds allocated by the president, who recently announced the allocation of 100 million tumans. [one tuman equals 10 rials] God willing, 20 km of this highway will be paved by the end of the current [Iranian] year and the rest will be completed next year.

The third and most important project is the Emamqoli-Darreh Gaz highway, of which 27 km have been paved so far. Only 13 km remain, and they will be completed by next year. [passage omitted]

[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN] In view of your great attention to the economic importance of Khorasan, especially with regard to the exchange of goods and trade with Central Asia, could you please tell us whether there is any plan for the initiation of flights between Mashhad and Ashgabat and other republics in the near future?

[Torkan] This is a topic worth studying. At present, the people of Central Asia are very eager to fly to Mashhad. During our talks in Kyrgyzstan, it was decided that there should be flights from Bishkek to Mashhad and then on to Kish island. This is due to begin shortly. Uzbekistan is also eager to have flights from Tashkent to Mashhad and then onto Manama, returning to Tashkent by the same route; this route is expected to be inaugurated soon. [passage omitted]

[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN] Mr. Torkan. Could you please tell us what steps have been taken within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO]?

[Torkan] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Turkmenistan coincided with the ECO Roads and Transportation ministers conference, and we will participate and discuss transportation problems extensively.

We intend to propose to ECO some important new transport routes such as the Astara-Anzali highway and a highway along the Caspian Sea coast to Gorgan and then on to Bojnurd, Quchan, and Mashhad. The other routes that have been proposed are from Mashhad to Torbat-e Heydariyeh, Ferdows, Tabas, Dahuk, Ravar, Kerman, and Bandar-e 'Abbas. The first circuit envisages links between the Central Asian Republics of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan. The second circuit involves links between the Central Asian Republics of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan with Chah Bahar. The third circuit will link the Central Asian republics with Bandar-e 'Abbas, which is our best equipped port. Our neighbors will be able to use these routes for their transit traffic. [end Torkan]

Regarding the Caspian Sea maritime routes, Mr. Torkan stated: It has been decided that an ECO shipping company will be established to transport goods among ECO member countries, with investments provided by the Caspian Sea littoral countries. [passage omitted]

[EQTESHD-E KHORASAN] While thanking you, as my last question, could you give us some information on the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tejan-Bandar-e'Abbas-Bafq railroad route for the benefit of our readers?

[Torkan] The Mashhad-Sarakhs railroad will be completed by 1995 if the funds are allocated in a timely manner. There are no problems with the implementation of that project and we should be able to procure the necessary funds. Turkmenistan has constructed 75 km of

rail line on the Tejan-Sarakhs route. Of course, the work is easier from that end, because on our side we have three big tunnels.

The progress on the Bafq-Bandar-e 'Abbas segment is also progressing satisfactorily and is scheduled to be inaugurated in Mehr [23 September-22 October] next year.

Iranian, Turkmen Delegates Agree To Expand Ties

NC1011110793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] A meeting between a delegation from Turkmenistan and officials from Mazandaran Province found the two sides reach an agreement to expand cooperation.

The Central News Unit reports that yesterday's meeting discussed practical ways to set up a market for Iranian products in Nebit-Dag in Turkmenistan; hotel construction and activating tourism by organizing tours taking in Sari, Gonbad, and Nebit-Dag; activating cargo and passenger transport companies; setting up a common border market; arranging cargo transport from Mazandaran to Turkmenistan; and building gas stations, repair shops, and residential areas along the roads linking the two countries. It was decided that experts from both sides should follow up the agreements that have been reached.

Paper Calls For Protection of Azeris

LD0911155193 Tehran IRNA in English 1303 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—With the approaching winter and thousands of Azeri Muslims rendered homeless in the incessant onslaught of the Armenian army, it is now the right time to do all to check further Armenian attacks, wrote the morning daily 'JOMHURI- YE ESLAMI' in its editorial Tuesday [8 November].

Until the Armenian aggression comes to a complete halt and the displaced Azeris return to their home, it is necessary to save the lives of the displaced Azeris from the threatening untimely winter by providing them suitable shelter, added the paper.

"Right after the young republics of the former Soviet Union began to experience freedom and independence, they fell prey to the plots, crimes and massacre."

Although Armenia itself is in the early stages of its independence, unfortunately "the Yerevan statesmen have been trapped in imperialistic ploys. Instead of concentrating on development of their country and welfare of their people, they have staged a war against the Azeri Muslims, to the appeasement of the enemies of Islam," the daily said.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI stressed, "The time of advice and guidance is over now. The aggressor must be expelled from the occupied Azeri territories. This is a crucial task and the Azeri people themselves must assume the responsibility to carry it out."

The paper added that even though Muslims are duty bound to help out every Muslim, "the Azeri Muslims should keep in mind that no one but they themselves can assume their responsibility."

The paper concluded by saying that now all Iranians must answer to the call of Iran's Red Cresent Society and make as much donation as they can.

"It is the duty of every one of us to extend our helping hand and give whatever we can, no matter how little, in order to save the lives of thousands of Azeri children, women and men from the below zero temperature and harsh conditions."

Austrian, Iranian Ministers Discuss Cooperation

NC1011101993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Austria's minister for economic affairs met Hoseyn Kamali, minister of labor and social affairs, in Tehran and described the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of Austria's major economic partners. He also called for cooperation between Iran's Technical and Vocational Training Organization and Austria's Training Machinery Production Association.

During the meeting, our minister expressed the Islamic Republic's readiness for technical cooperation with Austria.

Brazilian Minister Discusses Economic Cooperation

LD0811194293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Ways of expanding technical and commercial cooperation between Iran and Brazil, particularly in the field of mines and metals, was discussed at a meeting in Tehran today between the ministers of mines and metals of the two countries.

At the meeting, agreement was reached concerning cooperation between the two countries in lead and zinc mining, investment in the Qeshm free zone, iron mining, and the production of aluminum powder.

A meeting today between the minister of energy and mines of Brazil and our country's energy minster also decided that the two countries should take effective steps in energy supply and the construction of hydroelectric plants, with emphasis on the transfer of technical know-how about the water and electricity industry.

Discusses Ties With Nateq-Nuri

LD0911194293 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1430 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri this morning met with the visiting Brazilian energy and mining minister.

At the session, the Brazilian minister, Mr. Paulino Cicero expressed hope that bilateral ties and cooperation in various areas could expand as the Brazilian side widened its share of economic projects in Iran.

He later called for the removal of all the remaining barriers to closer trade relations, especially cooperation in the oil industry.

Welcoming the further deepening of ties, Iran's Majles Speaker, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: Tehran attaches great importance to its parliamentary exchanges with Brazil and believed that these exchanges can positively affect bilateral relations.

The Iranian Majles speaker later hailed joint Iranian-Brazilian investment in aluminum industries in Iran's second economic development plan.

IRNA Chief Warns of Western 'Cultural Assaults'

LD1111164293 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Mahabad (W. Azarbaijan), nov 11, IRNA—Managing Director of IRNA, Fereydun Vardinejad today called 'news bombardment' as the latest strategy of the western countries and underlined that in order to embark on a serious cultural movement, an independent news network will be the best option.

In an address to the administrative council of this provincial city (835 kms west of Tehran and near to the Iraqi and Turkish borders), Vardinejad referred to foreign television channels which are active in the region and described it as part of the west's "cultural assaults".

He said the western media, in an attempt to fuel religious and ethic differences, has focused its news programme on the Kurdish issue.

The chief of the Islamic Republic News Agency felt confident that a religious movement aiming to unify Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims in the country could abort all the western plots.

Mahabad has a mixed Kurdish Sunni population.

Yazdi, Larijani Discuss Press Issues

LD0611173393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] 'Ali Larijani, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, and the new press jury met today with Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the judiciary. The head of the judiciary spoke about the role and importance of the press jury, and said: Article 168 of the Constitution stresses the need for the presence of a press jury in trials relating to political press offences. He added: In the case of political press offences, the judge alone cannot be the arbiter and the question of whether the accused is guilty or not also involves the opinion of the jury.

The head of the judiciary also referred to the important role played by the press in society, and said: The role of the press is to create the framework for the intellectual, cultural, social, political and scientific growth of the population and it is precisely the press which can bring about development in society.

Mr. Yazdi also stressed the importance of press freedom in the Islamic Republic of Iran and, addressing the press jury, said: The law must be the basis of your work and the jury must examine press matters with care and fairness. It must defend the terrain of the press within the framework of the law.

Transport Minister Commissions Tabas Airport

LD1111123793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The Tabas airport and the ninth section of the Tabas-Yazd road were commissioned in the presence of Mr. Torkan, minister of roads and transport.

This airport, which has been built at a cost of 4.5 billion rials, has a three-kilometer-long runway, aviation equipment, control tower, and other necessary installations. In addition to small aircraft, Boeing-737 aircraft can now also land and take off from that airport.

In the opening ceremonies the minister of roads and transport made a promise to launch passenger flights from that airport to other parts of the country. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Bhutto: India Must Address Status of Kashmir

BK1211100193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has called on India to find a political settlement to the Kashmir problem. The use of force is not a permanent solution. In an interview with an Indian daily, THE HINDU, in Islamabad, she said India will have to discuss the future status of occupied Kashmir for better relations with Pakistan. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said Indian troops have been waging a violent campaign against the Kashmiris for the last four years. Thousands of Kashmiris have been killed for their legitimate struggle for self-determination. At the moment, there are four Indian security personnel to one Kashmiri. The prime minister condemned the Indian Army's siege of the Hazratbal shrine and called on India to withdraw its Army from the mosque.

Referring to the nuclear issue, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan was keen to work toward a nonproliferation regime. However, we believe it cannot be done unilaterally but only in a regional context.

Referring to U.S. demands that Pakistan roll back its nuclear program, she said India would first have to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Judicial Cooperation Agreement Signed With Iran

LD1111143393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Iran and Pakistan have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen and increase judicial cooperation. Our correspondent in Islamabad reports on the details of the memorandum of understanding.

[Correspondent] The memorandum of understanding was signed at the end of talks between our country's chief justice, Mr. Moqtada'i, and his Pakistani counterpart, Dr. Nasim Hasan Shah, in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Regarding the salient points of the memorandum of understanding, our country's chief justice said:

[Begin Moqtada'i recording] One of the points included in the agreement is the exchange of judicial bills. We are to assign two teams to review the two judicial systems, to study the assets of each system, so that we can discuss them at a later meeting and use the assets of each system and have a complete Islamic system, which could, God willing, establish Islamic justice in various sectors and bring dossiers to a conclusion in the shorted possible time. [end recording]

Mr. Moqtada'i added: Pakistan has expressed a willingness to utilize Iran's experience in the fight against narcotics' contraband, the Islamic banking system, family issues, and women's affairs.

Editorial Views Raphel Talks With Leaders

BK1111144993 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 11 Nov 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Talks With the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State"]

[Text] Miss Robin Raphel, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, is the first senior U.S. official to visit Pakistan after the assumption of power by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. On Sunday, she held detailed discussions with Benazir Bhutto, Foreign Minister Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, and Interior Minister Nasirullah Khan Babar on three major issues—nuclear proliferation, narcotics, and Kashmir. Other regional and international issues of common interest also came up for discussion, but the focus of attention was on the three aforementioned issues. By the time this newspaper hits the newsstand, the details of the negotiations would, probably, be made public by the government.

According to diplomatic sources, Robin Raphel urged the Pakistani leaders to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. The Pakistani side responded by saying that the nuclear issue is linked with the Kashmir dispute which, in turn, is linked with Pakistan's security. Benazir Bhutto said it is obligatory on the part of the United States to first help end the Indian siege of the Hazratbal shrine, ask New Delhi to withdraw all its troops from Kashmir, and then persuade it to hold meaningful negotiations with Pakistan. If the United States, the sole superpower in the world, takes the necessary steps for the establishment and maintenance of peace at regional and international levels and considers extending assistance to the countries concerned as its responsibility, it should fulfill its responsibility with full sincerity. If the Kashmir issue is resolved peacefully, numerous other problems in this region automatically will be resolved. If the United States were to understand this fact, it would be easier for it to select a correct mode of action and to achieve its specified goals. Washington will thus be able to triumphantly raise its head high in the community of nations, declaring that through its sagacity and wisdom it has helped resolve a 46-year-old dispute that has remained unresolved because of India's intransigence. A peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue will not only protect the life, property, and honor of 10 million people of Kashmir, but it will also enable the Kashmiris to decide their own destiny. Liberating the Kashmiris from Indian subjugation will be considered as a great accomplishment.

As for the nuclear nonproliferation issue, Pakistan has never refused to sign the NPT. It has simply stated that Pakistan will sign the NPT if India does the same first. The fact that India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 and possesses full capability to manufacture nuclear weapons is well known to the United States. It is India which poses a threat to other countries of the region and that is why New Delhi should be persuaded not to manufacture nuclear weapons and not to use them against nonnuclear states. Pakistan's nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes and it is not interested in developing nuclear weapons. It is meaningless to roll back the knowledge and expertise it has achieved in the fields of nuclear science and technology. It is unrealistic to ask someone, who has benefited himself from the knowledge and skills he has already acquired, to forgo that capability.

Acting Prime Minister Moin Qureshi declared that Pakistan's nuclear program is linked with the Kashmir problem—a fact that was accepted by the United States. It is an injustice to ask Pakistan to roll back its nuclear program at a time when Kashmir is being destroyed under the feet of the Indian forces and Pakistan's security is facing a serious threat. Several countries of the world possess the capability to manufacture nuclear weapons and several of them have already made and stockpiled nuclear bombs. Some have not developed nuclear weapons nor do they intend to do so. Pakistan is one of them. It would be an illogical and unnatural thing

to suggest that Pakistan should abandon its nuclear capability at a time when India is ready to launch an aggression against the Kashmiris.

Miss Robin Raphel, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, had talks with Interior Minister Nasirullah Khan Babar on the issues of narcotics control and illegal immigrants. The interior minister informed Miss Raphel of the various measures taken by the government of Pakistan, both within the country and outside, to eliminate the unlawful narcotics trade and trafficking. Hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis have become addicted to heroin and the government is trying to help these people get rid of this addiction and to rehabilitate them. Stringent measures have also been taken to check drug smuggling to other countries. Miss Raphel appreciated Pakistan's efforts and made assurances of U.S. assistance in this regard. Should Pakistan and the United States cooperate with each other, they can eliminate the drug menace and also reso[illegible] amicably other issues of mutual interest.

Pakistan, by virtue of its geographic location, is still relevant, rather more relevant today than before. It believes in the maintenance of peace at regional and international levels and is always ready to play its due role. If the Kashmir issue is resolved on the basis of the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people, it can help create in this entire region, and up to Central Asia, an atmosphere of peace, cooperation, and interaction in which making durable arrangements for the comfort and prosperity of the millions of the people of this region will become exceedingly easy.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told the U.S. assistant secretary of state that Pakistan desires to maintain cordial, amicable, and friendly relations with all countries, including the United States, in view of the requirements of the contemporary world. The present government does not want to see Pakistan isolated at the international level and it scrupulously adheres to the motto of friendship with all and enmity with none, but this will depend on the attitude of other countries. If other countries suffer from a lack of confidence and persist in their efforts to harm others, who can trust them?

Miss Raphel also had a meeting with the opposition leader, Mian Nawaz Sharif. During the talks, the same issues which figured into her talks with the prime minister and federal minister more or less came up for discussion. The observers described Miss Raphel's visit as significant, but said that the actual assessment of the significance of this visit can be made only after viewing the fruit it will bear.

Article Reveiws CIA 'Interventio[illegible]' in Politics

BK1111094393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Nov 93 p 7

[By Tariq Majeed, retired Navy commodore]

[Text] As the senseless clash between Pakistan's president and its prime minister completed its first stage last April, there were rumblings of allegations that the entire feud had been engineered and processed by foreign hands. The first act in the destructive drama was logically followed by other acts till the drama culminated in general elections. The belief, that foreign elements (of course with the unconscious or semi-conscious help of local elements) have been behind the recent change in government, lingers.

Foreign hand

While fingers are pointed at various subversive agencies including India's RAW and Israel's MOSAD, the main allusion is always to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States. It would be exciting if one could obtain first-hand evidence of CIA's involvement in the politics of Pakistan in the most recent crisis. That, however, is possible only if the prime movers of the country's ruling mechanism reveal what went on behind the scene and who pulled the strings, or if the crafty controllers of the CIA choose to lift the curtain from their dark deeds.

Enigmas Are Explained

Over a period of time, some disclosure would certainly be made because, apart from other things, it is a necessary part of both schemes—the scheme of the human band of plotters as well as the scheme of nature. Several of the sinister enigmas of the past are already known to us, although it is another enigma why the culprits involved in damaging Pakistan's vital interests have not only gone unpunished but also unchecked in their efforts to inflict more damage to our country! It is known, now, that it was a coterie of six persons who thrust an unprepared Pakistan into war with India in 1965.

In the current situation, however, we don't have to wait for specific evidence to appear. The CIA itself has been releasing substantial information about its intervention in its target countries around the world, and Pakistan's rulers can draw all the lessons, if they are determined to deal with the root cause of the persistent crises.

Scores of books by American authors, many of whom were insiders, give insight into the policies and intentions of the US government through disclosing the aims and activities of CIA the principal arm of US foreign policy.

CIA's Mission

The agency's general work is described by the authors of 'CIA: The Cult of Intelligence' in the following words.

"CIA engages in espionage and counter espionage, in propaganda and disinformation, in psychological warfare and paramilitary activities. It penetrates and manipulates private institutions, and creates its own organizations (called proprietaries) when necessary. It recruits agents and mercenaries; it bribes and blackmails foreign officials to carry out its tasks. It does whatever is required to achieve its goals, without any consideration of the ethics involved or the moral consequences of its

actions. As the secret-action arm of American Foreign Policy, the CIA's most potent weapon is its covert intervention in the internal affairs of countries the US government wishes to control or influence."

CIA's Resourcefulness

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, along with Iran, China and India, is at the top of the list of "the countries the US government wishes to control." Secret agencies of all the significant powers are entrusted with most, if not all, of these tasks. What makes the CIA unique, and formidable, is its vast capabilities, ruthless conduct and impressive triumphs in the pursuit of US political objectives. There is also the special clout of the CIA to take in tow the secret agencies of other countries to advance its schemes. It can use the ISI to hurt the interests of India or Russia and use RAW and MOSAD to hurt Pakistan's interests.

It can use Egypt's secret service to hurt Yemen, and use the Saudi secret service to hurt Egypt, implied in this power is its ability to misguide a nation's secret service to inflict damage on its people. We know how the Indian intelligence fed by CIA gave Jawaharlal Nehru a totally wrong assessment of India-China military balance in the NEFA [Northeast Frontier Agency] in 1962, misleading Nehru to initiate the war that resulted in a debacle for India.

Chile's Case Resembles Pakistan's

In the disclosures about CIA, the final layers of deception are kept intact in every case. Still, the narratives contain enough substance to learn from. An instructive case which also has resemblance to the situation in Pakistan is the story of CIA's intervention in Chile. As the accounts indicate, every general election in that country, just as in Pakistan, for that matter in India, was shaped by the CIA to produce the desired results. Shaping the outcome is accomplished not just by small-time tricks of rigging but more by highly subtle and secret machinations made possible by CIA's decades-old penetration into the target state's ruling circles and important organisations especially its police, political parties and press. The CIA plans all moves in advance; it even arranges pre-election opinion polls of its own.

Chile's 1964 Elections

CIA's disclosures about Chile begin with the 1964 elections which yielded the results exactly as desired by the US. As described in one voluminous book, 'The Agency—The Rise and Decline of the CIA,' by John Ranelagh, "The Christian Democrat, Eduardo Frei, won handsomely due in large measure to CIA backing. It was estimated that the CIA paid half the total costs of his campaign." Frei ruled for the next six years "with strong support of Edward Korry, the US ambassador in Chile." As directed by the World Bank and IMF, "Frei instituted a series of land reforms and wealth distribution measures along with reforms in education and the social services."

As Frei's term approached its end, the CIA was ready for the next phase of its scheme for Chile. The plot was to bring the Marxist leader Salvadore Allende in power in the 1970 elections, make Chile go through a period of unsteady socialist rule resulting in economic disruption, social chaos and destabilisation of institutions, discredit Allende, and prepare ground for a military regime to take over.

Nixon's Anti-Allende Policy

In the eyes of the American administration and the public, whose vision is controlled by the media, Salvadore Allende was an adversary who was not to be allowed to gain power. President Nixon wanted Allende stopped, by all means. "Since December 1969, the White House had again considered plans to stop Allende, and in March, 1970, the 40-Committee in high-powered body authorised to review and approve clandestine projects of US secret agencies) had approved the first anti-Allende propaganda campaign. In June 1970 as indications grew stronger that Allende's challenge might succeed, the 40-Committee began to consider what the CIA should do in addition to its low-key support for the Christian Democrats."

CIA's Plot Favoured Allende

Nixon had no idea that the CIA had its own plan, of building support for Allende and neutralising his major opponents. Among Nixon's senior aides only Henry Kissinger, who was Nixon's National Security Adviser, and a member of the secret clique which governs America knew about the real plan. At the sessions of the 40- Committee he voiced strong support for President Nixon's desire to ensure victory for Jorge Alessandri, the right-wing candidate. In clandestine meetings with Richard Helms the CIA Director, he discussed measures to pave the way for Allende's victory? [punctuation as published] Kissinger was to repeat this double- dealing performance a year later at the time of the 1971, India- Pakistan War. At the NSC/40-Committee meetings in Nov-Dec 1971, he was a zealous advocate of Nixon's desire to find ways to help Pakistan, while in exclusive sessions with the CIA director he approved measures to deal deadly blows to Pakistan ensuring its defeat in the war!

The Chilean people, like the people of Pakistan, were unaware that their general elections were being manipulated. Learning about Allende's public popularity (engineered by CIA's own efforts) in a meeting, Kissinger put on an angry act and remarked: "I don't see why we need to stand by and watch a country go Communist due to the irresponsibility of its own people." The Committee decided to increase the American effort to influence the Chilean elections. "The CIA was authorized to conduct a poll of the Chilean electorate before the election took place on September 4. Based on these polling results, the Agency predicted that Jorge Alessandri would beat Salvadore Allende." The CIA had dutifully presented disinformation to the American administration, as it had been doing on countless occasionas!

Allende's Overthrow

Salvadore Allende won the election. The CIA offered regrets for miscalculation! Then it turned to implementing the next plot to which, now, the US administration also subscribed. John Ranelagh tells the last part of the episode in the following words:

"In December 1970, the word was around town that Helms had slipped and that Nixon and Kissinger blamed the CIA for bungling the attempt to stop Allende. Helms and the agency rode the storm. Meanwhile the planning for Allende's downfall revived. A National Security Council Decision Memorandum, "Policy Toward Chile," was issued on November 9 authorising economic sanctions against Chile, and in the weeks that followed, the CIA was instructed to disrupt secretly the Chilean economy. (Chile's currency was devalued). Between Allende's inauguration as president in November 1970 and his death in September 1973, the CIA officially reported spending $8 million on anti-Allende plotting."

"The subversive effort focussed on stimulating the military coup groups into a strong unified move against the government. When a successful coup by Chilean army officers took place in September 1973, the CIA, through undercover agents, knew in detail about the plot and had a direct hand in encouraging the plotters." Allende was killed in the bloody coup d'etat. His 'Marxist' government was replaced by a military junta.

Methods of Intervention

According to one book, "In a secret talk at the Council on Foreign Relations, CIA's deputy director listed eight types of covert action, eight different ways that the CIA intervenes in the domestic affairs of other nations."

(1) "Political advice and counsel to the government concerned.

(2) Subsidies to individuals—journalists, officials, etc.

(3) Financial support and technical assistance to political parties.

(4) Support of private organisations, including labour unions, business firms, cooperatives, etc.

(5) Covert propaganda.

(6) Private training of target country's individuals and exchange of persons.

(7) Economic operations.

(8) Parliamentary or political action operations designed to overthrow or to support a regime."

This glimpse of covert methods purposely omits the most effective method—installing CIA's own agents as Prime Ministers, presidents, leaders of opposition in the target countries—currently in wide use.

Pakistan can face the Challenge

Countrymen! I have written to expose CIA not to praise it. By all means, blame yourselves; but heed how the enemy moves and in what guise. Know that the CIA is controlled by the American Jewish Lobby which serves the aims of Israel and the Zionist International Jewry—the hidden leadership of the world's Jews. While most the Muslims and other countries are caught inextricably, Pakistan can still come out of the enemy's clutches. The price, no doubt, would be high. But who says that freedom and honour can be gained or retained at a small price!

Nasrullah Khan, Bugti Pull Out of Presidential Race

BK1111163093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] It has just been reported that Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti have also withdrawn from the presidential elections. They withdrew in favor of Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari of PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front].

More Candidates Withdraw

BK1211053393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Nawab Mohammad Akbar Bugti and Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, the two presidential candidates of the National Democratic Alliance, have withdrawn from the presidential election in favor of Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, the Pakistan Democratic Front [PDF] candidate. The decision was announced by Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti and Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan at a joint news conference in Islamabad yesterday evening. They said that they have associated with the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] in the prolonged struggle to restore democracy in the country. They said they understand that the real contest in the presidential election is between two parties. Keeping this fact in mind, they made this decision in the interest of promoting democracy and stability. PDF candidate Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan, who was present, thanked the two leaders for withdrawing in his favor. Sardar Akhtar Mengal of [words indistinct] expressed his support for Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari in the presidential election. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the National People's Party president, was also present.

Meanwhile, Balochistan National Movement [BNM]-Hai Group has also announced its support for Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari. The announcement was made by Dr. Abdul Hai of the BNM-Hai Group in Quetta yesterday.

Yahya Bakhtiar has announced his withdrawal from the presidential contest. According to PPI, he has withdrawn in favor of Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari.

Mian Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri, secretary general of Tehrik-i- Istiqlal, in a statement in Islamabad yesterday, said that his party has decided to withdraw the name of retired Air Marshal Mohammad Asghhar Khan as a presidential candidate. A Tehrik-i- Istiqlal press release said that retired Air Marshal Asghar '.han has accepted the party's decision, and is therefore no longer a presidential candidate.

Maulana Mohammad Khan Shirani, leader of the (?Islamic Democratic Alliance) and Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam-Fazlur Rahman Group, has announced the Islamic Democratic Alliance's support for Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari in the presidential election. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad, he said that the government has assured the Islamic Democratic Alliance that it will take steps to promote religious organizations. The news conference was attended by Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and other PPP leaders.